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A Midwest Bibliography

Supplementary Number of

The Newberry Library Bulletin

June, 1947

Contents

Novels	*John T. Flanagan*	3
Poetry	*Robert Conover*	6
Humor	*Walter Blair*	9
The Small Town	*Leon T. Dickinson*	11
Fine Presses	*Harry J. Owens*	13
Art and Architecture	*G. Haydn Huntley*	15
Early Travellers	*Milo M. Quaife*	17
Pioneers and First Settlers	*J. Christian Bay*	19
General Histories	*R. Carlyle Buley*	23
Essential Lincolniana	*Paul M. Angle*	26
Politics	*Walter Johnson*	27
Books of Protest	*Ray Billington*	30
Water Transport	*William J. Petersen*	32
Railroads	*Richard C. Overton*	34
The Farm	*Arthur Moore*	36
Business and Industry	*Rodney C. Loehr*	38
Immigration	*Carleton Qualey*	40
Chicago Firsts	*Emmett Dedmon*	42
An English Midwest Book Shelf	*Graham Hutton*	45
Recent Trends	*John T. Frederick*	47

In view of the perishable quality of modern news print, the NEWBERRY BULLETIN *herewith publishes in more enduring form articles of permanent bibliographical value which appeared on May 4, 1947 in "Book Week," the literary section of* THE CHICAGO SUN. *This literary section, headed as "The Great Midwest Book Shelf," surveyed from many viewpoints the books that have been written about the midlands since the days of the earliest travelers.*

At the invitation of John William Rogers, editor of Book Week, Stanley Pargellis, Librarian of the Newberry Library, served as guest editor, selecting with the help of an advisory board authoritative writers to discuss midland books in various fields.

This advisory board consisted of Paul M. Angle, Director, Chicago Historical Society; J. Christian Bay, Librarian Emeritus, John Crerar Library; Ray Billington, Professor of History, Northwestern University; Theodore C. Blegen, Professor of History, University of Minnesota; R. Carlyle Buley, Professor of History, Indiana University; Robert Conover, Editor of KANSAS, *published at Kansas State Agricultural College; August Derleth, author; Irving Dilliard, editorial writer,* ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH; *John T. Flanagan, Professor of English, University of Illinois; John T. Frederick, columnist, former Professor of Modern Literature, Northwestern University; Walter Johnson, Assistant Professor of History, University of Chicago; Lloyd Lewis, biographer; Milo M. Quaife, Curator of Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library; Vincent Starrett, bibliophile, columnist and author; Ruth Suckow, author; Lowry C. Wimberly, Editor of* PRAIRIE SCHOONER *at University of Nebraska.*

NOVELS

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SELECTING the best novels even of a year imposes a stringent task upon the critic who is being lured constantly from one brightly jacketed volume to another, and choosing the best Midwestern novels ever published is almost a guarantee that the compiler will be guilty of prejudice or favoritism or sheer lack of knowledge.

From "The Hoosier School-Master" by Edward Eggleston.

Perhaps one or two initial distinctions will be helpful. In order to conform strictly to type, collections of short stories like Garland's memorable "Main Travelled Roads" or Ruth Suckow's admirable "Iowa Interiors" or Anderson's perceptive "Winesburg, Ohio" will be ignored. For similar reasons books which are thinly disguised autobiography, like Clarence Darrow's "Farmington" or Howell's "A Boy's Town," will be excluded. This list of the best Midwest novels will number only those which deal intrinsically with the Midwest and which are generally the work of Midwestern authors.

Adherence to any kind of artistic or esthetic standards compels one at the start to dismiss all Midwestern novels published before the Civil War from any list of the best. The first novelist of merit in the country west of the Alleghenies was Edward Eggleston, a Methodist minister who abandoned the pulpit for the study and eventually shifted from fiction to social history. Eggleston's "Hoosier School-Master" is widely known and a landmark of the local color school but it does not rank among his best books.

Rather, to begin this list, I should select his "Circuit Rider" and "Roxy," the first a story of the heroic age of Methodism which reflects many of Eggleston's own backwoods experiences, and the second a tale dealing with both evangelism and politics which manages to record a good deal of the mores of a primitive time. As a recorder of frontier manners, traditions, and idiom Eggleston was a worthy forerunner of the later realists.

Next comes E. W. Howe's "Story of a Country Town," a grim but truthful story of a Kansas community suffused with a narrow religiosity and a book which had a strong influence on the naturalists to follow. Joseph Kirkland's "Zury" is a striking picture of an Illinois farmer who by dint of energy, persistence, and ruthless bargaining won both wealth and a reputation for smartness which his actions did not belie.

About the same time the Chicago esthete and critic Henry B. Fuller produced his sharp indict-

ments of Chicago society, condemning its materialism and its false social aspirations. A bit artificial in technique, "The Cliff Dwellers" and "With the Procession" are nevertheless readable and valuable chronicles of Chicago's transformation from a commercial town to a metropolis, and rank with the best American protest fiction of the time.

Theodore Dreiser's "Sister Carrie" (1900), still a major American novel because of its memorable portraits of an amoral heroine who rises unpunished to material success, a glib and flashy traveling salesman and a tavern manager whose disintegration is one of the triumphs of American naturalism.

From the first edition of Mark Twain's "Huckleberry Finn."

The outstanding 19th century Midwestern novel was of course "Huckleberry Finn," not only a fascinating adventure story about boys on the great river but also a treasure-trove of dialect, idiom, folklore, superstitions, social customs. Today the world claims Mark Twain's masterpiece, but its strong roots in Hannibal and the Mississippi Valley only emphasize the often forgotten truth that the surest way to achieve universality in art is to be faithful to the time and place from which the art springs.

As the 20th century dawned, the fictional canvas widened and novels multiplied. In particular the stress shifted to stories of the depressed classes wrestling against both nature and environment and to documentary novels indicating certain aspects of society. Of this long procession the vanguard was

Cut from the same cloth were Robert Herrick's "Memoirs of an American Citizen," a salient attack on corruption in meatpacking and politics, Upton Sinclair's "The Jungle," a scathing denunciation of the methods used in killing animals and processing meat at the Chicago Stockyards, and Frank Norris' "The Pit," a novelized picture of speculation on the Chicago grain exchange and a dramatic exposition of one man's efforts to corner the market.

Dreiser's "Jennie Gerhardt," artistically an improvement over his earlier novel, is a sympathetic picture of a girl who clings to her lover despite his marriage to a woman who is more his social equal. In contrast to Dreiser's pessimistic arraignment of society is the picture of rural Nebraska which Willa Cather colored so brightly in "My Antonia" and "O

Pioneers!" In each of these books the protagonist is a woman who believes in the land and eventually makes her aspirations real. The same optimistic attitude toward the Midwest is visible in Floyd Dell's "Moon-Calf," a nostalgic and slightly romanticized sketch of life in a Mississippi River town astonishingly like Davenport, Iowa.

More characteristic of the second and third decades, however, were the novels which satirized or indicted the small town for its conventionalities, its inhibitions and restrictions, particularly for its frustration of the artist-type. Booth Tarkington had satirized an Indiana city sharply in "The Magnificent Ambersons" although he failed to avoid a trite and implausible termination. Zona Gale's "Birth," which had the misfortune to appear in advance of an appreciative public, etched a Wisconsin village caustically but was unhappily neglected.

It remained for Sinclair Lewis to focus the national discontent with an established way of life in the mordant realism of "Main Street" (1920), while two years later he managed to present an even more corrosive picture of the Midwestern realtor and local booster — practically intelligent but intellectually a moron—in "Babbitt." These novels and their successors explain the selection of Lewis as the recipient of the Nobel Prize of 1930, the first such award made to an American writer.

Modern observers of the Midwest at once note the essential dichotomy in the region between the rural hinterland and the highly industrialized areas which fringe part of the Great Lakes. Nor have novelists been slow to exploit such themes. Farming in particular has been the subject of some admirable fiction ranging from Louis Bromfield's impressive historical novel of an Ohio region called "The Farm" to Ruth Suckow's prolix but honest and faithful record of Iowa husbandry entitled "The Folks."

Of course the great story of immigrant farmers first homesteading and finally challenging climate and human society remains O. E. Rolvaag's "Giants in the Earth," an unforgettable picture of Norwegians in South Dakota transforming the prairie into arable land while they themselves are being metamorphosed from fisher folk into farmers.

The most significant recent novels to come out of the Midwest are localized in the cities and deal for the most part with racial or social minorities who fight against the status quo but can contravene it only through crime and vice. The proletarian novel which is naturalistic in technique and socialistic in philosophy is best exemplified by James Farrell's "Studs Lonigan," a long and forthright study of the Chicago Irish, and by Richard Wright's "Native Son," a powerful narrative of a Negro whom circumstance and color drive into anti-social practices. Both authors inherit Dreiser's bitterness against modern society and both present their stories grimly and concretely.

Here then are 25 novels of Midwestern life ranging in time of publication from 1874 to 1940. Collectively they will compare well with those published in any other section of the country, and individually they reach high levels. "Huckleberry Finn" and "Babbitt" and "Giants in the Earth" have already become a part of world literature.

JOHN T. FLANAGAN

University of Illinois

POETRY

DURING the decade which began in 1913 new voices in American poetry were heard. Many of these were Midwestern. One of the most jubilant and enthusiastic was Vachel Lindsay. His revivalistic ferver secured him a hearing, but his evangelism brought about some of his failures as a poet. "Gen. William Booth Enters Heaven" appeared in 1913 and the first edition of his "Collected Poems" in 1923. His gospel of beauty was too many times based upon nostalgic hymns which aroused emotion, but did not sustain effort.

The tougher idealism of John G. Neihardt centered in heroic men of the wilderness, Indian fighters and other comrades in adventure. "The Song of Hugh Glass" appeared in 1915. Three other long poems appeared before the "Collected Poems" in two volumes in 1926. Neihardt's ambition was to write epics of American frontier history. He has lived in Kansas and Nebraska and spent six years with the Indians of the Omaha Reservation. His stories are veracious and his characters live and breathe.

The simpler life and ordinary hardships of the pioneers of Iowa and Nebraska are depicted in "Barbed Wire and Other Poems" (1917) by Edwin Ford Piper. These poems express reserved, half-grudging respect for the pioneers and their restricted lives. Barbed wire fences saved the crops of the settled farmers and forced the cowmen westward. They were a symbol of stability.

In "Spoon River Anthology" (1915) Edgar Lee Masters shows what happened to the children and grandchildren of other pioneers. They inherited ease and achieved prosperity, but their towns were whited sepulchres for the living, and the dead, sleeping on the hill, did not rest in peace. In "Spoon River" uneasy wraiths recite their epitaphs of ignominy, shame, self-sacrifice, desperate endurance or heroism. Its ironic revelations have never been surpassed. Good poems appear in Masters' other volumes, but "Spoon River Anthology" is his best work.

Communities such as Spoon River remain, but industrialism has changed America and the Midwest. Carl Sandburg of Illinois and Chicago is the poet of industrialized America, both town and country. He believes in democracy as firmly as did Whitman but with fewer illusions and more sympathy. He sees both ugliness and beauty in men and women, but his belief in them is undiminished. "Chicago Poems" appeared in 1916, "Smoke and Steel" in 1920, and "The People, Yes" in 1936. In the intervals between these other volumes appeared. They all represent a man, his country and his people.

Archibald MacLeish is another poet of the Midwest who realizes that the land we live in is the land that lives in us. To represent his work he made a selection which appeared as "Poems, 1924-1933." Its first poem, "The Hamlet of A. MacLeish" is an unforgettable analysis of self and shows the quicksands of the soul. Other indelible poems reveal his accessive mind, his apt, incisive words and his ability to select the poetry of current speech. America, its origins, its mind, its heart are in his poems.

T. S. Eliot was more interested

in discovering and then integrating his own soul. While he was an American he stalked his soul in devious ways. "Wasteland" and the satirical poems which he did so well, preceded the integration he has secured in England and Anglo-

neth Fearing, realizes and abhors the snake pit of modern life. His "Collected Poems" (1940) have both method and substance. His clipped speech, brusque and satiric, reproves the futile people whom he dislikes and pities. He

A caricature of Carl Sandburg by D. F. Fitzpatrick, cartoonist of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Catholicism where his candle lights the shrine of John Donne.

A different emotional and artistic unity is realized in the poems of Paul Engle. Nothing American is foreign to him; nothing common or insignificant in the origins, life and development of our land and people. Paul Engle is deeply moved but not appalled by our failures. The best of his poems, humane and inexorable, are included in "American Song, a Book of Poems" (1934), "Break the Heart's Anger" (1936), and "Corn" (1939).

Another Midwestern poet, Ken-

would scorn them except for the fact that even the snake pit occupants wonder vaguely about life and death.

In contrast to many other Midwestern poets, Kenneth Porter ignores urban industrialism. He has traveled away from such surroundings, west and south in this country and Mexico, and through the British Isles. His first volume of poems, "The High Plains," (1938) was largely about Kansas. "No Rain from These Clouds" (1946) shows increased poetic ability and a successful use of dialect in "Ballads of the Sem-

inole Negroes." All his poems show intolerance of social wrongs and a deep and quiet sense of power.

Langston Hughes, who grew up in the Midwest, is well known. Vachel Lindsay was one of the first to encourage him to write. His poems about Negroes reveal the pathos and patient sadness, as well as the hatreds of a twice-exiled people, once from their native Africa and again from their more recently native South. He knows that submission is not a virtue and has sympathy for all the oppressed. His poems appear in a number of volumes of which "Weary Blues" (1927) was the first. His latest poems are to be published this year under the title "Fields of Wonder."

In "Blackman's Verse," Frank Marshall Davis, of Chicago, reveals a desire for social justice that is not limited to race. Gwendolyn Brooks, who, like Frank Marshall Davis, was born in Kansas, has published a book of poems, "A Street in Bronzeville," (1945) which portrays Negro life in Chicago. The book is an indication and promise of what she may achieve in later work.

Most Midwestern poets and new poets in other sections have been introduced and encouraged by the little magazines and magazines of poetry. These magazines set a high standard for poetry. In Chicago, Poetry, founded by Harriet Monroe in 1912, has encouraged new poets, paid for its contributions and has survived. At present its editors are George Dillon, Marion Strobel, Margedant Peters and John Frederick Nims. Accent is published at Urbana, Ill., and edited by Kerker Quinn, Charles Shattuck and others.

In Kansas the Harp, under the editorship of May Williams Ward and Eunice Wallace Shore, published excellent verse for several years and is due for a revival. Recently the Rocky Mountain Review moved eastward to the University of Kansas and was rechristened the Western Review. Ray B. West remains its editor.

Some of the magazines are referred to as regional, and they do promote good writing in their immediate environment. Every writer of verse or prose knows his own region best, but through knowing it, he knows America and the world.

ROBERT CONOVER

Kansas State Agricultural College

BOOKS ABOUT IOWA

by William J. Petersen, State Historical Society of Iowa

Bess Streeter Aldrich, "Song of Years." Appleton-Century, 1939.

Cyrenus Cole, "Iowa Through the Years." State Historical Society, Iowa City, 1940.

Paul Corey, "Three Miles Square." Bobbs-Merrill, 1939.

Josephine Donovan, "Black Soil." Stratford, Boston, 1930.

Hamlin Garland, "Son of the Middle Border." Macmillan, 1917.

"The Palimpsest." Iowa City, Iowa, 1920-date.

Herbert Quick, "Vandemark's Folly." Bobbs-Merrill, 1922.

Hartzell Spence, "One Foot in Heaven." McGraw-Hill, 1940.

Ruth Suckow, "Country People." Knopf, 1924.

Writers' Program, "Iowa: A Guide to the Hawkeye State." Viking, 1938.

HUMOR

MIDLAND humor started in frontier times, when Morgan Neville of Pittsburgh and Cincinnati described a folk hero, Mike Fink, for an annual, "The Western Souvenir," in 1828. "The Last of the Boatmen" told in print some of the rambunctious tall tales which had orally celebrated the king of the Ohio River keelboatmen. Two other Midwest humorists, J. M. Field and John S. Robb, both of St. Louis, in the 1840s also wrote tales based on the oral saga of this comic demigod. One of Field's narratives, published in the St. Louis Reveille June 14 and 21, 1847, but never reprinted, is the best weaving together of yarns about Mike ever achieved.

In Michigan, also in frontier times, Mrs. Caroline Kirkland sketched her backwoods neighbors in the vivid and amusing "A New Home—Who'll F o l l o w?" (1839), "Forest Life" (1842) and "Western Clearings" (1845).

After 1855, the style of midland humor changed, producing the so-called "Funny Men," professional literary comedians who got their effects more by using malapropisms and puns, weird spelling and peculiar sentences than by portraying life and character, and who have not survived very well. The Midwest was pre-eminent in this field.

Artemus Ward (Charles Farrar Browne) and Petroleum V. Nasby (David Ross Locke), both of whom won their first fame in Ohio, were idolized by their countrymen in the 1850s and 1860s. A little later Robert J. Burdette's pieces for the Burlington (Iowa) Hawkeye and those of M. Quad (Charles R. Lewis) for the Detroit Free Press were widely reprinted and admired. Those who wish to sample these authors may dip into "Selected Works of Artemus Ward" (1924), "The Nasby L e t t e r s" (1893), Burdette's "The Rise and Fall of the Moustache and Other 'H a w k e y e t e m s' " (1877) and "Quad's Odds" (1875).

More fortunate were some of the local colorists of the post-Civil War period—fiction writers who continued the tradition of the early 19th century humorists,

From "Mike Fink, King of the Mississippi Keelboatmen," by Walter Blair and Franklin J. Meine.

specializing as they did in the genial portrayal of a region and its people. Here, Edward Eggleston was outstanding, particularly in "The Hoosier Schoolmaster"

(1871). Rather more readable is a forgotten novel, "Zury: the Meanest Man in Spring County" (1887), a narrative of the Michigan frontier by Joseph Kirkland, Caroline's son. Local colorists in verse were Will Carleton of Michigan and James Whitcomb Riley of Hoosierdom, both of whom wrote good humor in dialect whenever they managed to avoid sentimentality. Carleton's best book is his first, "Farm Ballads" (1873) and "The Complete Poetical Works of James Whitcomb Riley" (1937) is still in print.

Mark Twain, the greatest humorist America has produced, was essentially a Midwesterner (with some Southern flavoring) all his days. Twain sometimes wrote in the manner of the Funny Men, but at his best, in "Life on the Mississippi," "Tom Sawyer" and "Huckleberry Finn," he was a local colorist.

Chicago nurtured two noteworthy humorists in the 1890s—George Ade and Finley Peter Dunne. Both, like Twain, mingled the qualities of the literary comedian with those of the local colorist. Ade's "Stories of the Streets and of the Town," published 1893-1900 and recently (1941) edited by Franklin J. Meine and published by the Caxton Club, were essentially local color humor—vivid pictures of the period. Ade's "Fables in Slang" (1899 and later) caught on largely because of their laughable use of current idiom in satirizing human foibles. Even better are Finley Peter Dunne's delightful monologues by Mr. Dooley, the Sage of Archey Road, published beginning in 1898. The cream of these has been poured into "Mr. Dooley at His Best" (1938), edited by Elmer Ellis.

The 1890s also saw the beginning of the career of a Midwestern fiction writer who was outstanding as a humorist in the Mark Twain tradition—Booth Tarkington. This author's "Penrod" (1914) and "Seventeen" (1917) are classics of the humor of boyhood and adolescence.

In the Golden Age of Columnists—say 1895 to 1930—the Midwest produced several column conductors who wrote noteworthy light verse, brief skits and essays. Chicago newspapers led the rest, with Eugene Field, Bert Leston Taylor, Ben Hecht and Richard Atwater (Riq). "The Writings of Eugene Field" (10 volumes) were published in 1896, Taylor's best collection was "The So-Called Human Race" (1922), Hecht's daily columns for the Chicago Daily News were printed as "1001 Afternoons in Chicago" in 1923 and Atwater is represented by "rickety rimes" (1925). Kurt M. Stein, who wrote delightful dialect verse for Taylor's and Atwater's columns, is represented by "Die Schonste Lengevitch" (1925), which still sells merrily and delights many fans. In this same period, Indianapolis gave daily space to a Hoosier sage in the old crackerbox tradition, Abe Martin, created by the late great Kin Hubbard. In Cleveland, the fine tradition of the columnist has been prolonged to the present by Ted Robinson.

But the Midwest hasn't done too well in modern humor. It has produced several humorists of note, to be sure—Michigan-born Ring Lardner, Illinois-born Don Marquis and Ohio-born James Thurber, for instance. But each of these followed the trail of other writers Eastward and in time came to write in the style of the Easterners. So far, Midwesterners haven't acclimated themselves readily to the sophisticated metropolitan humor now fashionable. It seems safe to predict, however, that some time in future, the humor of this section will regain the pre-eminent position it has held in the past. We're still as funny in these parts as are the people of any other section. If someone will only effectively record our comedy, we'll again be the laughing stock of the nation.

WALTER BLAIR

University of Chicago

THE SMALL TOWN

FROM 1839, when Mrs. Caroline Kirkland's "A New Home—Who'll Follow?" told of community life on the Michigan frontier, until the present time, poets and novelists who considered the small town have either written of it lovingly or bitterly.

To its apologists, the Midwestern small town is idyllic as in Zona Gale's "Friendship Village" (1908.) Booth Tarkington and William Allen White make the small town not only pleasant, but also virtuous. Tarkington's first novel, "The Gentleman from Indiana" (1899), is the story of a worthy young man who, accepting the small-town values, becomes a leader among those whom Tarkington called "the dear, good people," and as a reward for his efforts he is sent to Congress.

In White's "A Certain Rich Man" (1909) John Barclay deserts the simple ways of small-town business and becomes an unscrupulous monopolist. For a while he succeeds, but when his shady practices bring death to two people, one his own wife, he acknowledges the rightness of the ways he has deserted.

These pictures of the small town were pretty, but a number of writers felt there was an uglier side which should also be set forth. As early as 1883 Edgar Watson Howe had revealed it in "The Story of a Country Town." This Twin Mounds is desolate, its inhabitants vicious. Illicit love, insane jealousy, murder, suicide—these for Howe were the real elements in small-town life. "Your picture of the arid village life," Mark Twain wrote him, "is vivid, and, what is more, true. I know, for I have seen and lived it all."

But the book was ahead of its time. The theme was quiet till the appearance of Edgar Lee Masters' "Spoon River Anthology" in 1915—a series of candid epitaphs, in which some 250 small-town people speak from the grave, revealing their humdrum existence, their intrigues, their thwarted ideals. Not all of the epitaphs are bitter, but it was the bitter ones that were denounced.

Sherwood Anderson entered the fray in 1919 with "Winesburg, Ohio," a series of 23 sketches of "grotesques," as the author called his characters. They are grotesques because they are abnormal, made so by the conventional forces of the town. With Freudian instruments Anderson probes deep beneath the surface, but it is the individual that interests him rather than the forces which twist lives.

Floyd Dell's "Moon-Calf" (1920), a strongly autobiographical novel, shows what an inspiring young artist was up against in a small Illinois town. Felix Fay is no grotesque, but like Anderson's characters he is stifled by his surroundings.

This repressive environment is set forth in documentary fullness by Sinclair Lewis in "Main Street" (1920), which kept hot the debate started by "Spoon River Anthology." The Main Street of the story, Lewis tells us, is "the continuation of Main Street everywhere," and his indictment is complete.

Lewis' book was followed by many others in the same vein: Charles Merz's "Centerville, U.S.A." (1924), Wallace Irwin's "The Golden Bed" (1924), Rupert Hughes' "The Old Home Town"

From "Der Fuehrer von Cincinnati", 1875.

Cincinnati in 1810.

(1925). Even Zona Gale had changed with the times. Though not hostile toward the small town, her "Birth" (1918), "Miss Lulu Bett" (1920), and more particularly "Preface to a Life" (1926) are much more critical of it than was "Friendship Village."

In the 1930s writers were forced by the depression, by political lessons from abroad and by the approach of war, to inquire more deeply into the meaning of America. From the WPA Guides to the States, the Rivers of America, the American Lake Series, the American Folkways Series, the Sovereign States Series, the American scene, numerous regional anthologies—excellent interpretations such as Graham Hutton's "Midwest at Noon" (1946)—we learn that the small town has changed. The automobile and the radio have pretty well erased the distinguishing trait of the small town—its isolation. Today, much more than in 1915, life in a small town is like life in larger communities.

In "Main Street Revisited," a chapter in his "Pine, Stream and Prairie" (1945), James Gray marks the change. "Main Street," he writes, "is no longer peopled (if indeed it ever really was) by hollow men childishly and jovially unaware of their emptiness or achingly conscious of wanting something that their community cannot give them." Perhaps the town had never been as backward as it was pictured in the '20s. It was suggestive of a lessening provincialism that the Committee to Aid the Allies was headed by the small town's foremost spokesman, the late William Allen White.

Recently writers seem to be trying to get their readers neither to love nor despise the small town, but to understand it. Earnest Calkins' "They Broke the Prairie" (1937) sketches the growth of Galesburg, Ill., from its settlement to the present. Harold Sinclair's "American Years" (1938) presents the biography of a typical Midwestern town from its founding in 1830 to the Civil War.

The writer who perhaps has come closest to revealing the whole truth about the Midwest small town is Ruth Suckow. Though some of her early stories, collected in "Iowa Interiors" (1926), seem to place her with Lewis and the other foes of the village, she never was a violent partisan. Rather she has gone her own way, recording both the

pleasant and unpleasant truths about the Iowans she knows so well.

In "The Odyssey of a Nice Girl" (1925), in "The Bonney Family" (1928) and in "The Folks" (1934), Miss Suckow's longest and richest novel, Iowans have been startled at the accuracy with which their idiom and speech rhythms are reproduced. Miss Suckow's characters are amazingly real to any Midwesterner. They are unmistakably Iowans, but more important, they are people, whose triumphs and defeats are those of all of us. In their story, one feels, lies the truth about the small town.

LEON T. DICKINSON

University of Missouri

FINE PRESSES

ONE does not expect fine presses to flourish in wartime. The most we can hope is that they will survive to carry on their work after the tragic turmoil has subsided. Today, two years after the finish in Japan, war-begotten dislocations and shortages are still with us. It is still hard to bring the picture into anything like sharp focus.

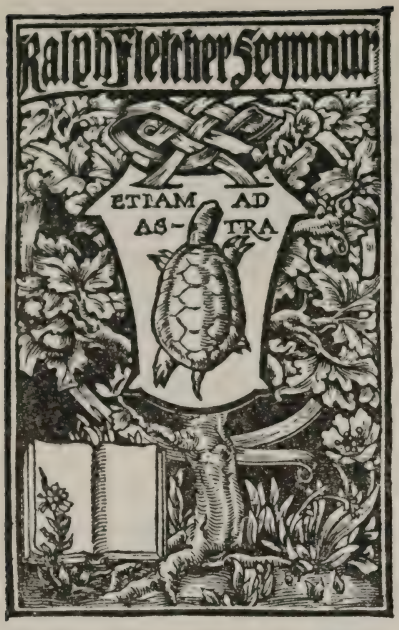
The following survey is therefore offered as a stopgap against the day when Will Ransom can give the subject adequate treatment in a new edition of "Private Presses and Their Books":

The Alderbrink Press, Ralph Fletcher Seymour, 410 S. Michigan av., Chicago. "Once there was a veritable Alderbrink Press," writes Seymour, "but for some years my books have been mostly Linotype, 25 per cent rag paper, case bindings, and nothing much to write about." (Among literally hundreds of titles: "Mass for the Dead," from the Roman Missal, "The Frankfort Book Fair," "The Unbelievable Game Country.")

The Lakeside Press, Chicago. (Most recent title in its Lakeside Classics series: "A History of Illinois, 1818-1847," by Gov. Thomas Ford, published Vol. I in 1945, Vol. II in 1946.) Two presses founded by Lakeside craftsmen may well be mentioned here—**The Holiday Press,** Chicago. Jerry Stepanek, president. ("The Ade-McCutcheon Reminiscences," "Voyages to Vinland," and, currently in production, "The Scandalous Adventures of Reynard the Fox." **The Covered Bridge Press,** Crawfordsville, Ind. Organized a little over a year ago, this press is understood to have its first product under way.

The Norman Press, Chicago, another hobby press-within-a-press, has used three imprints: The Black Cat Press, Normandie House, and At the Sign of the Gargoyle. More than 70 books have been produced under one or the other of the first two. The third, which adorns the banner of a younger employees' spare-time venture, has so far appeared on three books, "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves," "More Tales for Bibliophiles," and "The Quick Brown Fox."

The Prairie Press, Iowa City. Conducted by Carroll Coleman, now a member of the University



Bookplate of Ralph Fletcher Seymour, designed by himself.

of Iowa faculty. Formerly also a publishing imprint, this press has in its time brought out original work by various Midwestern writers, including August Derleth, James Hearst, Wallace Stegner and James Norman Hall.

The Pocahontas Press, Chicago. Suzette Hamill, director. Has to date published five books and has two more actually in progress. "Mexican Costume," a portfolio of color plates by Carlos Merida, was one of the Fifty Books in 1942. Another, "Mexican Bouquet," written and illustrated by Mrs. Clarice Hamill, is in this year's Fifty Books exhibition.

The Printing Office of Philip Reed (changed from The Monastery Hill Press on Reed's return from the Army last year). Not a private press, P. R. emphasizes, but a service in typographic design, wood engraving, illustration and printing of a kind not commonly practiced in commercial printing establishments today. Past publications include "The Seven Voyages of Sinbad the Sailor" and Dickens' "Christmas Carol," both in the Fifty Books and both now out of print.

The Torch Press, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Edward F. Misak, president. Has been producing books and publications for individuals and institutions for more than 40 years. ("The Anglo-Russian Convention of 1907," by Rogers Platt Churchill, "The Fortune of Books," by J. Christian Bay, "Shakespeare—Man of Mystery" by Thomas Henry Foster.)

Trovillion Private Press (At the Sign of the Silver Horse), Herrin, Ill. Conducted by Violet and Hal W. Trovillion. Started as a hobby 40 years ago, this press has published some 40 titles. ("When Lincoln Came to Egypt," "Books and Gardens," "Delights for Ladies.") Whosoever can come to feel the pride and enthusiasm

From "A History of Stone and Kimball and Herbert S. Stone & Co." by Sidney Kramer.

Publishing house of Herbert S. Stone & Co.

for any worthy thing in this world that the Trovillions feel for their press will never pine away for fear of floods, pestilence or war.

HARRY J. OWENS

Chicago

ART AND ARCHITECTURE

ONE definition of the art of the Midwest would include all the art which has been made in this area and by persons born here. Most of the books which accept this concept are hardly more than specialized directories listing the artists active in a particular state. Such books are of almost no value for an understanding of the art of the Midwest.

Noteworthy exceptions and truly valuable books based upon this geographical concept, however, are: Edna M. Clark's "Ohio Art and Artists" (1932); Mary Q. Burnet's "Art and Artists of Indiana" (1921); and Porter Butts' "Art in Wisconsin" (1936). These three books are informative and authoritative in their fields. That of Porter Butts is a model of its type, being well illustrated, scholarly and interpretive. All are chiefly concerned with painting.

In the field of architecture similar valuable books on a statewide basis are: Lee Burn's "Early Architects and Builders of Indiana" (1935); and I. T. Frary's "Early Homes of Ohio" (1936). Architecture of the Chicago area has received special attention in John Drury's "Old Chicago Houses" (1941); in Thomas Tallmadge's "Architecture in Old Chicago"; and in a mimeographed brochure published by the Museum of Modern Art in New York, "Early Modern Architecture: Chicago, 1870-1910." The two last named works can well serve as an introduction to a more limited and precise concept of Midwestern art. They deal to a great extent with the forms of architecture which arose from techniques and ideas found in unique combinations in Chicago and nowhere else.

Chicago architects of the turn of the century made the only Midwestern contributions to the development of art which are internationally famous. Hugh Morrison's "Louis Sullivan" (1935) and Russell Hitchcock's "In the Nature of Materials, the Buildings of Frank Lloyd Wright" (1942) are monographs on the two most outstanding personalities of the "Chicago school." Both books are well illustrated and scholarly.

Those who wish to enter into the realm of the ideas which begot this glorious achievement of the Midwest will also seek out some of the writings of these great artists. Sullivan's "Kindergarten Chats" (1947) is indispensable for this purpose. Amongst Wright's numerous literary expositions of his beliefs one might well choose "An Autobiography," (1932); and "Frank Lloyd Wright on Architecture" (1941).

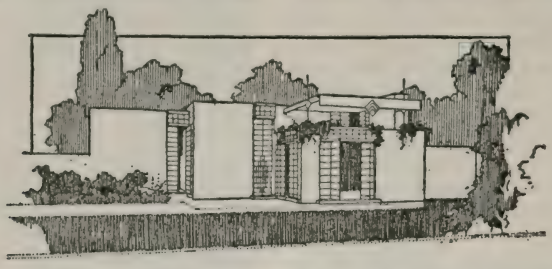
A great original contribution in the field of landscape design, paralleling the domestic architecture of Wright, was made by Jens Jensen, whose basic ideas may be found in "A Greater West Park System," published by the West Chicago Park Commissioners in 1920. Wallace Baldinger's essay, "The Middle West Builds a Home" in "Midwest Culture" (1944), centers his thesis that the Midwest's great contribution in art is in the field of community development, on the achievements of Jensen and Daniel Burnham, who sponsored and planned the monumental development of Chicago's lake front and spacious park system.

While the architectural movement which we know as the "Chicago school" is in the narrowest and most intense sense of the term Midwestern, there was nothing in

the fields of the sister arts of painting and sculpture to complement it. Most of the pictures and statues were Midwestern only in that they were produced within the boundaries of the area. In no essential way did they differ from works done by artists in other parts of the United States. Such, for example, were the sculptures of Lorado Taft, who did so much to inculcate a love for the fine arts in this region, but who never for a moment thought of art as having geographical boundaries. One may read of him in a charming little biography recently written by his widow, Ada Bartlett Taft, "Lorado Taft, Sculptor and Citizen" (1946).

The clearest statement of the hopes and aims of the "Regionalists" is in Grant Wood's "Revolt Against the City" (1935). Wood makes a plea for the use of native, Midwest subjects. He emphasizes the parallels of the individualism of the farmer and the artists, and advocates that the artist live amongst farmers until he becomes one with his native culture which derives from the soil.

Thomas Hart Benton's autobiography, "An Artist in America" (1937), affords a detailed account of why he fled from the city back to the land of his forefathers. "John Stuart Curry's Pageant of America" by Lawrence Schmeckebier (1943) is an excellent analysis of the Wisconsin artist's work and beliefs. The greatest Midwest "Regionalist" of a century ago is the subject of an entertaining and well written book by Albert Christ-Janer, "George Caleb Bingham of Missouri" (1940). Bingham's pictures are good illustrations of the life along the Mississippi about which Mark Twain wrote.



From "In the Nature of Materials; The Buildings of Frank Lloyd Wright; 1887 - 1941," by Henry - Russell Hitchcock.

Frank Lloyd Wright's design for an Arizona dwelling.

An analysis of the Midwest attitude toward art in a typical small city is presented in Lawrence Schmeckebier's "Art in Red Wing" (1940). Sadly enough the author found little understanding of what art means amongst the citizens. The best art resulted when the people made purely utilitarian things such as pottery or grain elevators.

Books treating the phenomena of the art of the Midwest as a whole, as a regional accomplishment, as a summary of the entire artistic culture of the area do not exist. The field is a broad one with much material accumulated in the art and historical museums and with a fair amount of primary sources noted or published by the state historical societies. At present the publication of Rexford Newcomb's "Architecture of the Old Northwest" is eagerly awaited, which will be an important step in the direction not only of integrating the architectural accomplishments of various Midwest states but in relating them to American architecture in general.

G. HAYDN HUNTLEY

Northwestern University

EARLY TRAVELLERS

SOME of the shrewdest judgments ever passed on the American scene have been the observations of travelers. In 1831 two young Frenchmen came to America intent on studying our prison system. As a by-product of their tour, Alexis de Tocqueville wrote "Democracy in America," which Harold Laski has recently characterized as "perhaps the greatest work ever written on one country by the citizen of another." The travelers came west as far as Sault Ste. Marie and Green Bay. Their travels are best described by G. W. Pierson, "Tocqueville and Beaumont in America" (1938); the most recent edition of Tocqueville's "Democracy" is the one edited by Phillips Bradley (1945).

Perhaps the first best seller to come out of the Midwest was Father Louis Hennepin's "Description de la Louisiane," published originally at Paris in 1683 and frequently reissued thereafter in numerous editions and languages. Accompanying La Salle to Illinois, Hennepin was the first white man to visit and describe the Upper Mississippi area. We have no space to recite his many falsehoods or the many editions of his narrative. The most recent edition in English, edited by Marion E. Cross, is titled "Father Louis Hennepin's Description of Louisiana, Newly Discovered to the Southwest of New France, by Order of the King" (1938).

More sprightly than Hennepin, even more popular, and also tinged with mendacity is the Baron de Lahontan's "New Voyages to North America," first published at The Hague in 1703 (most recent edition edited by R. G. Thwaites, 1905). This witty depiction of the American wilderness is believed to have exercised a marked influence upon the subsequent writing of such thinkers as Montesquieu and Voltaire. He has given us our best picture of New France in the 17th century.

The English conquered Canada in 1760 but practically a century passed before their geographical knowledge of the western country equaled that of their French predecessors. Jonathan Carver, a Connecticut Yankee who had served in the French wars, was the first Englishman to publish an account of the region west of Lake Michigan, which he traversed in 1766-67. His famous "Travels Through the Interior Parts of North America," first published at London in 1778, was popular for 100 years, during which it was reprinted dozens of times.

As with his French predecessors, Hennepin and Lahontan, the accuracy of Carver's narrative has been much debated by scholars; yet its long-continued popularity and its influence in shaping the conception of the American Indians held by civilized readers are factors which combine to give it a secure place among the classics of American travel literature.

Almost half a century passed before another notable book of Midwestern travel and exploration was published. Then the western pressure of American settlement and the renewed vigor of the government following the War of 1812 combined to produce not merely one but a series of such books. Even before the war President Jefferson had dispatched the Lewis and Clark Expedition upon its momentous journey across the continent. Although a century was to elapse before its

voluminous records were published ("Original Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, 1804-1806," R. G. Thwaites, Editor, 1904-1905), an excellently written condensed narrative of their contents, prepared by Paul Allen, was published at Philadelphia in 1814.

Following the war John C. Calhoun as Secretary of War and Gov. Lewis Cass of Michigan Territory promoted several notable Western explorations. Earliest of these was an expedition from Pittsburgh to the Rocky Mountains in 1819-20, led by Maj. Stephen H. Long, whose historian was Edwin James ("Account of an Expedition from Pittsburgh to the Rocky Mountains Performed in the years 1819 and '20." Philadelphia, 1822-23). Gov. Cass' expeditions brought to the Western country the most diligent of its literary exploiters in the person of Cass' protege and secretary, Henry R. Schoolcraft, who produced a stream of books on American Indian life and Western exploration (from him Longfellow obtained the information which enabled him to write "Hiawatha"). Notable among these are his "Narrative Journal of Travels Through the Northwestern Regions of the United States" (1821); his "Travels in the Central Portions of the Mississippi Valley . . . in the Year 1821" (1825), and his "Narrative of an Expedition Through the Upper Mississippi to Itosca Lake . . . in 1832" (1834).

Many of the narratives by British travelers were highly uncomplimentary to America, notable among them being Mrs. Frances M. Trollope's "Domestic Manners of the Americans" (1832) and Charles Dickens' "American Notes," which was published in 1842.

In a friendlier vein is Charles J. Latrobe's "The Rambler in North America" (1835). The author, an aristocratic Englishman, recorded his midland observations with much literary charm. Friendlier, too, were Harriet Martineau, author of "Society in America" (1837) and Fredrika Bremer, a Swedish observer, whose extensive narrative "The Homes of the New World" was published at Stockholm, London and New York in 1853.

MILO M. QUAIFE

Burton Historical Collection

BOOKS ABOUT MICHIGAN

by Lewis Beeson, Michigan Historical Commission

Henry R. Schoolcraft, "Personal Memoirs of a Residence of 30 Years with the Indian Tribes on the American Frontiers." Lippincott, Grambo & Co., 1851.

George N. Fuller, "Michigan, a Centennial History of the State and Its People." Lewis, 1939.

Mrs. Louise Armstrong, "We Too Are the People." Little, Brown, 1938.

Writers' Program, "Michigan: A Guide to the Wolverine State." Oxford, 1941.

Angus Murdock, "Boom Copper." Macmillan, 1943.

Lew Allen Chase, "Rural Michigan." Macmillan, 1922.

William A. Simonds, "Henry Ford; His Life, His Work, His Genius." Bobbs-Merrill, 1943.

Harlan H. Hatcher, "The Great Lakes." Oxford, 1944.

Francis Parkman, "History of the Conspiracy of Pontiac." 1851.

Arthur Pound, "Detroit, Dynamic City." Appleton-Century, 1940.

PIONEERS AND FIRST SETTLERS

THE literary records of Western pioneer life and experience balance between personal narratives of early settlers and critical historical study. The average reader will prefer the narratives, but should not push aside Frederick J. Turner's excellent orientation, "The Frontier in American History." Then, if he craves a definite knowledge of the great trails leading into the West, he may buy for a trifling sum one or more of the following "Bulletins" of our excellent U.S. Geological Survey: Nos. 611 and 612 for the Overland Trail, 613 for the Santa Fe Trail, and 614, 707 and 845 (part F) for other Western routes.

The first known crossing of our continent, between Florida and the Pacific, is credited to Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca (1528-1536). The account, in Bandelier's handy little edition, is very readable and highly dramatic. This pioneer journey, however, was scarcely less venturesome than that of Lewis and Clark, nearly 300 years later, of which Paul Allen's dramatic narrative is available in several forms.

What our country looked like in the early days may be observed from the splendid colored lithographs illustrating the well written U.S. Engineer's surveys of Western railroad routes. These are supplemented by a large number of accounts of journeys, the most important being the series "Early Western Travels," edited by R. G. Thwaites. Many also have been issued by the Lakeside Press, edited mostly by M. M. Quaife. If the reader is interested in a small locality, he may need the help of a librarian. However, in order to begin somewhere, it would be hard to find a more lively and entertaining pioneer book than John Regan's "The Western Wilds" (1859). It deals with early Illinois life, mainly on the farm and before the Civil War. The same is true of Charles B. Johnson's "Illinois in the Fifties" (1918). As for county histories, few exceed in dramatic intensity N. Matson's "History of Bureau County" (1872).

Early farm life in Michigan has been admirably described in William Nowlin's "The Bark Covered House." For Indiana, we have J. A. Lemcke's "Reminiscences of an Indianan," very good for Ohio River lore, and Logan Esarey's recent book "The Indiana Home." "Some Recollections of My Boyhood," by Branson L. Harris, reflects winningly a pioneer boy's experiences in central Indiana. So does Young E. Allison's "The Old Piano," for Kentucky.

But the greatest of all Kentucky books is Daniel Drake's "Pioneer Life." His childhood and youth fell within the first quarter of the 19th century, his great work as a physician continued for nearly another half-century. Drake is an example of that rise of spontaneous energy which we find in many of our grand old men of that period.

A recent book, "The Afterglow," by Dr. Frank G. Nigong (born in 1867) affords a similar view of a gifted boy who began life on a farm and, remembering all that he learned there, found his way into a medical lifework and served his state (Missouri) with honor.

As for pioneer women, Mrs. Adela E. Orpen, in her "Old Emigrant Days in Kansas," draws

From "Missouri As It Is in 1867," by Nathan Howe Parker.

Pioneer scene in Missouri.

a cheerful, highly informative series of sketches illustrating a little girl's joys and sorrows on the farm. The bitter experience incident to a haphazard settlement on the Kansas plains is the story of Mrs. Miriam Colt, in her book "Went to Kansas" (1862).

A more cheerful picture is found for Illinois in Christiana Holmes Tillson's reminiscences, "A Woman's Story of Pioneer Illinois," which contains important detailed descriptions of rural manners and customs of her day. Two later books, Margaret Lynn's "A Stepdaughter of the Prairie" (1914) and the anonymous "A Prairie Winter" (authorship acknowledged by Miss Frances Belle Owen of Chicago), have extraordinary esthetic and descriptive value.

Few narratives will compete successfully with "A Homesteader's Portfolio" (1922) by Alice Day Pratt, a laconic, matter-of-fact account of a resourceful girl's conquest of her land amidst poverty, danger, wild beasts and climatic hardships.

For fiction directly derived from fact the reader will profit by Hamlin Garland's classical "Main-Travelled Roads" (1891) and "Prairie Folks" (1893). To pursue the pertinent literature of later years would take us too far afield except that certain typical characters and traits may be discovered in more recent books, notably in Willa Cather's earlier works. The classical description of a genuine Western tornado is found in Herbert Quick's great trilogy of Iowa, "The Hawkeye," "Vandermark's Folly" and "One Man's Life." This brings to mind "The Reminiscences of Newcastle, Iowa," (1921) by Sarah Brewer Bonebright, a veritable encyclopedia of prairie speech, manners, utensils, play and pastime, faith and festivals.

A very faithful study of Western dramatic episodes was made by Roswell Martin Field, whose chef-d'oeuvre, "In Sunflower Land" (1892) deals with Kansas, but applies to all mankind in sympathy and knowledge of life's conflicts.

"A Western Pioneer" (2 vols., 1872-79) by Bishop Alfred Brunson, reflects a long, laborious and most useful life in the Central West. "The Snow-Shoe Itinerant," by John L. Dyer, is inspiring in its accounts of wild frontiers tamed by fearless servants of spiritual order standing firm in the midst of local feuds and Indian outrages. Nor would it be wise to overlook the lives of the Bishops Flaget of Kentucky and Nerinck of Ohio.

"A Long Life in Review," (1928) by a centenarian, Leonard Matthews of St. Louis, shows the constructive forces active in business circles in the 19th century in a large Midwest community. True frontier trading operations along the Mississippi were described by J. W. Spencer and J. M. D. Burrows (Lakeside Classics, 1942). A typical prairie town in its growth and struggles before the Civil War has been exhaustively pictured by Daniel Harmon Brush, in his book "Growing Up with Southern Illinois" (Lakeside Classics, 1944).

In E. W. Gould's "Fifty Years on the Mississippi" (1889) we find an encyclopedia of river activities, and William J. Petersen's "On the Upper Mississippi" (1937) is a veritable cornerstone in our Northwest social history.

The "Autobiography" of Gurdon Saltonstall Hubbard (1899 and later) and the "Family Memoirs" (1912) of his gifted wife form a composite picture of the vigor, honesty and grace not usually credited to our society in its formative period. The same is true of the "Reminiscences of John V. Farwell" (1928), by his daughter—a family that would have put the mark of distinction on any community. Curiously, the Farwell history eventually brings us all the way into the Panhandle section of Texas and the cattle trade, a unique

American story written and documented in 1929 by J. Evetts Haley, in "The XIT Ranch."

James Hall of Cincinnati, judge, businessman, editor and writer, is responsible for about a dozen books on the Midwest. In "A Western Souvenir" (1821) he gave us the first known sketch of the famous boatman, Mike Fink, afterwards immortalized by Franklin J. Meine. In "Notes on the Western States" James Hall gave us his classical descriptions of our two chief types of landscape, the forest and the prairie (Ohio and Indiana).

An excellent traveler's guide, useful even today, is creditable to Randolph B. Marcy, whose "Prairie Traveler" (1859) still would serve as a guide in emergencies. As for leisurely traveling for pleasure no Western book will easily outlast Charles Fenno Hoffman's "Wild Scenes in the Forest and Prairie" (1835), which depicts scenery and travel episodes in Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota in a language and style which seems modern and advanced.

Connecting the old with the new was the old giant Thomas Huston Macbride, whose swan song "In Cabins and Sod-Houses" (1928) contains an outpouring of memories and an assertion of ideals such as keep mankind serene and graceful. It is an epic of the prairie paradise, a hearty response to our beloved fellow citizen Dr. William A. Pusey's admonition "The Importance of Being Historically Minded" (1927).

J. CHRISTIAN BAY

Chicago

BOOKS ABOUT KANSAS

by Kirke Mechem, Kansas State Historical Society

Carroll De Witt Clark and Roy L. Roberts, "People of Kansas." Kansas State Planning Board, 1936.

Everett Dick, "The Sod-House Frontier." Appleton - Century, 1937.

"History of the State of Kansas." Chicago, 1883.

Bliss Isely and Walter M. Richards, "Four Centuries in Kansas." McCormick-Mathers, Topeka, rev. ed., 1944.

Joseph G. McCoy, "Historic Sketches of the Cattle Trade of the West and Southwest." Ramsey, Millet & Hudson, Kansas City, Mo., 1874.

James Claude Malin, "John Brown and the Legend of Fifty-Six." American Philosophical Society, 1942.

Sara T. D. Robinson, "Kansas; Its Interior and Exterior Life." Crosley, Nichols, Boston, 1856.

"The Autobiography of William Allen White." Macmillan, 1946.

Robert Marr Wright, "Dodge City, the Cowboy Capital, and the Great Southwest." Wichita Eagle Press, 1913.

Writers' Program, "Kansas: A Guide to the Sunflower State." Viking, 1939.

GENERAL HISTORIES

THE writings on the history of the Middle West began with the "Relations" of the Catholic missionaries in the 1630's when Father Louis Hennepin, who though lacking in literary grace and something of a plagiarist and propagandist, compensated with an adventurous spirit and a good imagination. The "Description of Louisiana" (Utrecht, 1683, and Minneapolis, 1938) and "New Discovery of a Vast Country in America . . . between New France and New Mexico". . . . (London, 1698, and Chicago, 1903) first generally acquainted Europe with the Middle West.

On La Salle, France's bold and striking "Westerner", recent scholarship has made new findings, but considering both history and literary merit, Francis Parkman's "La Salle and the Discovery of the Great West" (1879 revision) still remains the most attractive presentation. "The French Regime in Wisconsin and the Northwest" (1925), by Louise P. Kellogg rounds out our contingent on the romantic French period.

For the part played by the Middle West in British imperial politics and world affairs prior to independence no work compares with Clarence W. Alvord's "The Mississippi Valley in British Politics" (1917). The British advance into the West can well be followed in "George Croghan and the Westward Movement 1741-1782" (1926) by Albert T. Volwiler.

On the Revolution in the West the best historical treatment is James Alton James'. "George Rogers Clark" (1928) though some readers might prefer the more dramatic older account by William H. English, "The Conquest of the Country Northwest of the River Ohio" (1896). Not for literary glamour but for sheer historical content to hold the story together through the 18th century first place must go to Justin Winsor's "The Mississippi Basin 1697-1763" (1895) and "The Westward Movement 1763-1798" (1897).

As Americans rolled across the Appalachians their historical writings kept pace with the growth of their history: Capt. Gilbert Imlay in his "Topographical Description of the Western Territory" (London, 1797) included the adventures of Boone, Filson's "Kentucky", a description of Tennessee, Thomas Hutchins' "Account of the Western Country", and some contemporary narratives. Samuel P. Hildreth's "Pioneer History . . . of the Ohio Valley and early settlement of the Northwest Territory" (1848), can hardly be omitted for the early history of the Ohio Valley. "Chicago and the Old Northwest 1673-1835" (1913) by Milo M. Quaife well covers another corner of the Northwest, while Archibald Henderson's "Conquest of the Old Southwest" (1920) opens up the history of the region south of the Ohio.

The period 1820-50 developed a group, Western in residence as well as interests, whose writings have not been surpassed in importance to the present time. To name only five: James Hall, advertiser and protagonist extraordinary of the West, wrote tales, descriptions, scores of articles, a dozen books, and edited—and largely wrote—the Illinois Monthly Magazine (1831-32) and the Western Monthly Magazine (1833-36). No one book gives an idea of his importance, but "Sketches of History, Life and Manners in the West" (1835) is as good as

any. Timothy Flint will have to be represented by "Recollections of the Last Ten Years" (1826) and "The History and Geography of the Mississippi Valley" (1828). He also edited—and wrote—the Western Monthly Review (1827-30). Of the numerous early state histories Caleb Atwater's "History of the State of Ohio" (1838), John Reynolds' "Pioneer History of Illinois 1673-1818" (1852), and Thomas Ford's "History of Illinois . . . 1818-1847" (1854) will suffice as representatives. The last is particularly good for pioneer politics.

One of the first attempts at a comprehensive history of the region—a work not as well known today as it deserves—was Dr. John W. Monette's "History of the Discovery and Settlement of the Valley of the Mississippi . . . Until the Year 1846" (1846). Not until 1899, when Theodore Roosevelt began publishing his very readable and generally scholarly "Winning of the West" (1880-96), was an equally pretentious narrative written.

Of the many books on life and the people of the West the following are among the choicest: Caroline M. Kirkland, "A New Home—Who'll Follow?" (1839); Baynard Rush Hall, "The New Purchase" (1843); Harriet Martineau, "Retrospect of Western Travel" (1838); and John Ludlum McConnel, "Western Characters or Types of Border Life" (1853).

Of the histories of literature of the Midwest, three are outstanding: William Henry Venable, "Beginnings of Literary Culture in the Ohio Valley" (1891); Ralph Leslie Rusk, "The Literature of the Middle Western Frontier" (1925), and Dorothy Anne Dondore, "The Prairie and the Making of Middle America" (1926). In religious history the work of William Warren Sweet ("Religion on the American Frontier" series, etc.) leads all the rest.

The first store in Chicago.

From "The Land Owner, a Journal of Real Estate," February 1871.

Among recent books meriting mention either for their historical contributions or their inspirational value are Quaife's "Lake Michigan" (1944), Grace Lee Nute's "Superior" (1944), Harlan Hatcher's "Erie" (1945), Thomas D. Clark's "The Rampaging Frontier" (1939), Beverly Bond's "Civilization in the Old Northwest" (1934), James M. Miller's "The Genesis of Western Culture" (1938), Henry Clyde Hubbart's "The Older Middle West—1840-1880" (1936), Logan Esarey's "The Indiana Home" (1943), Albert L. Kohlmeier's "The Old Northwest as the Keystone to the Arch of the Federal Union" (1938), and Walter Havighurst's "The Land of Promise" (1946). In "Midwest at Noon" (1946) Graham Hutton has given us the best general view of ourselves by an European observer since McConnel and Michael Chevalier wrote a century ago.

As important as the authors of histories have been the patient collectors and editors of source materials. Lyman Copeland Draper devoted his life to the beginnings of the best single historical library on the region; Reuben Gold Thwaites edited 73 volumes of "Jesuit Relations" and 28 volumes of "Early Western Travels"; C. W. Alvord, Milo M. Quaife, Joseph Schafer, Clarence E. Carter and many others have labored to make the history available.

Though not included for specific works, it is impossible to omit the names of Frederick Jackson Turner ("The Frontier in American History," 1920, etc.) and Frederic Logan Paxson. Turner, some 50 years ago, first outlined a new approach to the study of American history and profoundly influenced, as well as helped train, a whole "school" of Western historians. Paxson, besides training historians, produced the first "synthesis" of the history of the West ("The American Frontier," 1925).

The above list, supplemented by 20 good works of travel and description and a dozen historical novels, would serve as an introduction to the history of the Midwest. Any historical librarian could easily add 500 titles.

J. CARLYLE BULEY

Indiana University

BOOKS ABOUT INDIANA

by Howard H. Peckham, Indiana Historical Society

Heath Bowman, "Hoosier." Bobbs-Merrill, 1941.

Logan Esarey, "The Indiana Home." Banta, Crawfordsville, 1943.

Eli Lilly, "Prehistoric Antiquities of Indiana." State Historical Society, Indianapolis, 1937.

Harlow Lindley, Editor, "Indiana as Seen by Early Travelers." Historical Commission, Indianapolis, 1916.

Meredith Nicholson, "The Hoosiers." Macmillan, 1900.

Robert and Helen Lynd, "Middletown: A Study in Contemporary American Culture." Harcourt, Brace, 1929.

Jeannette Covert Nicholson, "Hoosier City; the Story of Indianapolis." Messner, 1943.

Booth Tarkington, "Alice Adams." Doubleday, 1921.

William E. Wilson, "The Wabash." Farrar & Rinehart, 1940.

Writers' Program, "Indiana: A Guide to the Hoosier State." Oxford, 1941.

BOOKS ABOUT NEBRASKA

by James C. Olson, Nebraska State Historical Society

Keene Abbott, "Wine O' the Winds." Doubleday, 1927.

Bess Streeter Aldrich, "A Lantern in Her Hand." Appleton-Century, 1928.

Willa Cather, "My Antonia." Houghton, Mifflin, 1918.

Everett Dick, "The Sod House Frontier." Appleton - Century, 1937.

J. Sterling Morton and Albert Watkins, "History of Nebraska." North, Lincoln, 1903-1913. 3 vols.

Arthur H. Mullen, "Western Democrat." Funk, 1940.

John G. Neihardt, "Song of the Indian Wars." Macmillan, 1925.

George W. Norris, "Fighting Liberal: An Autobiography." Macmillan, 1945.

Mari Sandoz, "Old Jules." Little, Brown, 1935.

Writers' Program, "Nebraska: A Guide to the Cornhusker State." Viking, 1939.

ESSENTIAL LINCOLNIANA

THE person who becomes a confirmed Lincoln enthusiast —"nut" in the fraternity's own terminology—will spend most of his life in reading if he is to encompass his subject. On the other hand, one who wants simply an adequate comprehension of Lincoln's life can derive it from a very small number of books.

He need not, in fact, read even one book. Every library of consequence possesses the "Dictionary of American Biography," which contains an admirable sketch by J. G. Randall. There, in 14,000 words, a reader may well find more about Lincoln and his works than he will get in many a book to which chance alone leads him.

Many readers, however, will want a full-length biography. But of what length? In one volume, Lord Charnwood's "Abraham Lincoln," first published in this country in 1917, remains reasonably satisfactory, although it is without benefit of much factual material and many interpretations which have resulted from the work of a generation of scholars.

Beyond Charnwood, one runs into length. Albert J. Beveridge's "Abraham Lincoln, '1809-1858,'" two thick volumes, deserves the study of all to whom Lincoln's political career makes an appeal, but it ends two years before his election to the Presidency. J. G. Randall's "Lincoln the President," also two volumes, takes Lincoln only from 1861 to 1863, although the reader is provided with a long introductory summary. (Two concluding volumes are promised.) Published only a year ago, this book serves as a synthesis of recent scholarship, particularly that which has found expression in monographs and learned journals rarely seen by laymen.

If length be no deterrent, Carl Sandburg's six volumes—"Abraham Lincoln: The Prairie Years" (1926) and "Abraham Lincoln: The War Years" (1939)—are certainly recommended. In fact, they are recommended even if length is a deterrent. Sometimes unreliable in detail, these two books in their entirety afford an incomparable picture of Lincoln and the period in which he lived, and at the same time attain rare heights in literature.

Whatever biography one chooses should be supplemented by the book which goes by the title, "Herndon's Lincoln: The True Story of a Great Life." A memoir rather than a well proportioned biography, Herndon's book has been the subject of bitter controversy for almost 60 years. It has been criticized, with reason, as woefully inaccurate and biased in many particulars, yet it continues to be indispensable.

Those who have the time and desire to read more than one or two books about Lincoln can do no better than to move on to his own writings. His speeches and state papers deserve their reputation, and even in his day-to-day correspondence the man "expressed himself" to a degree rarely met with. Of selections, the most recent (and best) is Roy P. Basler's "Abraham Lincoln: His Speeches and Writings," but Philip Van Doren Stern's "The Life and Writings of Abraham Lincoln" is also a well chosen collection, and has the advantage of being accompanied by a biograph-

ical essay which is itself a small book.

Larger than either of these is Nicolay and Hay's "Abraham Lincoln, Complete Works," published in two volumes in 1894 and still in print. Though by no means complete, it contains the great majority of Lincoln's important writings.

Beyond a biography or two, "Herndon's Lincoln," and a good collection of Lincoln's own works, a reader is likely to find himself caught in the flood of Lincoln literature. By that time he will either be keeping afloat by his own efforts, or he will be in need of far more succor than can be extended by Book Week.

PAUL M. ANGLE

Chicago Historical Society

POLITICS

"POLITICS!" an Iowa farmer explained to John Dos Passos in 1943, "the only time folks worry about politics around here is when times are bad and they can't get a price for their corn. Other times they just naturally vote Republican." The depression years temporarily shook the Republican allegiance of the small town and rural Midwest, but today this region once again is a tower of strength for the Republican party while the Democratic party flourishes in the great metropolitan areas of this section.

The Civil War years, characterized by widespread growth of Midwestern industry and by the mechanization of farming, were nearly disastrous for the Democratic party of Jefferson and Jackson. Copperheadism — well described in G. F. Milton's "Lincoln and the Fifth Column" and in Wood Gray's "The Hidden Civil War"—was rampant in Midwestern Democracy and for years after the war the Republicans easily defeated Democrats by labeling them as defeatists and pro-Confederates. "It was inconceivable that any self-respecting person should be a Democrat," wrote Brand Whitlock in "Forty Years of It" in describing the Ohio of the reconstruction era.

During the years of war and reconstruction, the industrial leaders of the nation swept into political power through the medium of the Republican party. The party, which under Lincoln had spoken for the expectant capitalist and for the small businessman and farmer, was transformed in the years from 1865 to 1901 into the organ of the larger industrial group. William Allen White's "Autobiography," as well as Herbert Croly's "Marcus Alonzo Hanna," accurately describe this significant change in the Republican party.

The first real protest against industrial domination of American government came from some disgruntled Midwestern farmers who organized the Anti-Monopoly, the Greenback, and the Populist parties. This Midwestern revolt is best presented in John D. Hick's "The Populist Revolt"; Solon J. Buck's "The Agrarian Crusade"; F. E. Haynes' "Third Party Movements"; M. R. Werner's "Bryan"; and, in Harry Barnard's "Eagle Forgotten: The Life of John Peter Altgeld."

From 1901 to 1917, the Midwest

contributed many stalwart progressives to the struggle to force "the malefactors of great wealth" to serve the public. "The Selected Letters of William Allen White," edited by Walter Johnson; "Fighting Liberal, the Autobiography of George W. Norris," and Claude Bowers' "Beveridge and the Progressive Era" describe the varied activities of the progressives while L. White Busbey's "Uncle Joe Cannon" and Henry Pringle's "William Howard Taft" analyze the policies and actions of the standpatter forces.

There is no first-class book dealing with the over-all politics of the Midwest since 1919. James M. Cox's "Journey Through My Years," however, contains valuable information on Ohio during the last two decades, Russell Lord, "The Wallaces of Iowa" throws light on Iowa Republicanism, Johnson's, "William Allen White's America" (to be published in August) describes the politics of Kansas and the Midwest as seen through the eyes of a liberal Republican.

Charles E. Merriam's "Chicago, a More Intimate View of Urban Politics" is a shrewd description of Chicago politics through the days of Bill Thompson's alliance with seekers of privilege and his intimate tie with organized crime. "The Government of the Metropolitan Region of Chicago" by Charles E. Merriam, S. D. Parratt and Albert Lepawsky throws valuable light on the political problem faced by all urban areas under the domination of rural legislators and archaic state constitutions.

With Midwestern urban labor and progressive groups now questioning their continuation within the Democratic party, the Republicans once more have the chance to emerge as the dominant party in this region. The wing of the party that most actively supported progressive measures at home and favored co-operation with other nations had its principal victories on the East and West coasts. In the Midwest progressive candidates were purged in favor of conservative candidates.

"The Standard Bearer," a cartoon of William Howard Taft in The New York World, July 29, 1906.

It is rather ironic that the region which once gave Abraham Lincoln and liberalism to the Republican party has now become the section where progressive ideas find a rather frigid and uncongenial environment.

WALTER JOHNSON

University of Chicago

Probably no American politician was cartooned so often or so violently as William Jennings Bryan of Nebraska. Leslie's Weekly on August 13, 1896 pictured him as Satan tempting Eve (Miss Democracy) with the forbidden apples of Free Silver.

BOOKS OF PROTEST

THE transformation of the Midwest from a land of fruitful farms and bustling villages to a region of factory towns and noisy cities did not go unchallenged. During the last decades of the 19th century, when the industrialization process was at its height, scores of Midwestern writers protested vehemently against a civilization which rewarded farm toil with debt and factory labor with misery.

Hamlin Garland was among the first. Drifting with his parents from dreary farm to dreary farm in Wisconsin, Iowa and Dakota, his pent-up resentment found expression in "Main Travelled Roads" (1891), a book of sketches written to show Easterners that "the working farmer . . . must pitch manure as well as clover." He sardonically chose the title because he believed a main road "is long and wearyful and has a dull town at one end and a house of toil at the other."

"A man like me is helpless" one of his characters explained, "just like a fly in a pan of molasses. There is no escape for him; the more he tears around the more liable he is to rip his legs off."

The grimness of Western life similarly underlay the literature of protest through which agrarian leaders sought to rally the section's underprivileged for the battle against soulless corporations, monopolistic railroads and an inflexible currency. James Baird Weaver, a son of the Michigan and Iowa frontier, ably expounded the forward-looking Populist program in his "Call For Action" (1892), written to further the author's presidential campaign that year.

Four years later William Jennings Bryan, fresh from the Platte country of Nebraska, plummeted to fame with his "Cross of Gold" speech and his "The First Battle" (1896), which voiced the staunch conviction that a less-rigid currency would loosen the hold of financial Bourbons on farmer and worker alike.

Less optimistic was another Midwesterner, Ignatius Donnelly of Minnesota, who gloomily predicted in "Caesar's Column" (1890) that the struggle between rich and poor would end in a stupendous social cataclysm that would wipe out civilization.

Richard T. Ely of the University of Wisconsin, ambitious to remake the "dismal science" of economics, with its emphasis on untrammeled individualism, into an active agency for mankind's improvement, wrote "Monopolies and Trusts" (1900) and "Studies in the Evolution of Industrial Society" (1903). His plea was for institutions which would supply leisure and plenty, rather than drudgery and poverty, from technological improvements. Even more effective were the works of Thorstein Veblen, Wisconsin-born son of a Norwegian farmer, whose "Theory of the Leisure Class" (1899) and "Theory of Business Enterprise" (1904) starkly revealed the weakness of a cut-throat capitalist system in which men strove to make money rather than goods. Still more influential was Henry D. Lloyd, who learned the miseries of slum dwelling while a newspaper reporter in Chicago. In his "Wealth Against Commonwealth" (1894) he wrote "Our industry is a fight of every man for himself. The prize we give the fittest is monopoly of

the necessities of life, and we leave these winners of the powers of life and death to wield them over us by the same 'self-interest' with which they took them from us." His cause was ably pleaded by another Midwesterner, Eugene V. Debs of Terre Haute, Ind., who founded the Socialist Party of America in 1899 and whose philosophy is in "The Speeches of Eugene V. Debs" (1929).

The industrial problems that intrigued economists also fascinated novelists. Chicago-born Frank Norris planned an epic trilogy on wheat in protest against a system that made poverty possible amidst plenty. In the first, "The Octopus" (1901), he pictured farmers strangled by monopolistic railroads; in his second, "The Pit" (1903), speculators on the Chicago Board of Trade, indifferent to both farmer and consumer, gambled with lives as casually as with money. Norris died before the third, "The Wolf," could add a happy ending by showing the good done when the wheat reached Europe's starving millions.

Chicago was also the inspiration of Upton Sinclair who aroused while assisting in a government inspection of the stock yards, poured out his indignation in one of America's most important realistic novels, "The Jungle" (1906). In it Sinclair pictured the career of a Lithuanian immigrant workman mistreated by sharpers and politicians, exploited by an employer, driven into crime by his surroundings, and converted into an enemy of society by a corrupt legal system. "The Jungle's" descriptions of nauseating conditions in packing plants created such indignation that President Roosevelt ordered an investigation and Congress passed the nation's first pure food law.

"Honest Money," a cartoon of Mark Hanna in the New York Journal, September 12, 1896.

Equally tangible results were secured by another Midwesterner who ranks among the greatest of the "Muckrakers" of the early 20th century. Ray Stannard Baker, Michigan educated and Chicago trained, in "The Reign of Lawlessness" (1904), "Railroads on Trial" (1905), and "Following the Color Line" (1908), gave brutally factual dissections of social injustices, revealing man's helplessness to combat industrial monopolies.

The prominent role of Midwesterners in protesting against society's evils was indicative of their section's consistent emphasis on change, and of the belief in perfectability which has long been part of the Western spirit.

RAY BILLINGTON

Northwestern University

WATER TRANSPORT

THE Midwest is bounded and traversed by the greatest system of waterways in the world—the Great Lakes on the north, the Ohio in the south, and the Upper Mississippi and Missouri in the west. Along these mighty waterways stand 10 of the 19 largest cities in the United States. The annual tonnage on the Great Lakes far exceeds that of all the U.S. ports combined. The Ohio River's traffic eclipsed that of Suez and Panama in 1945. Even the placid Illinois River carries a tonnage equal to that of the bustling Manchester Canal in England.

With the canoe and flatboat literature described elsewhere in this issue, unless Walter Blair modestly fails to mention his and Franklin Meine's "Mike Fink, King of the Keelboatmen," the bibliography of the modern midland waterways could begin with Florence L. Dorsey's "Master of the Mississippi," an excellent biography of Henry Miller Shrove whose life bridged the gap between keelboat and steamboat.

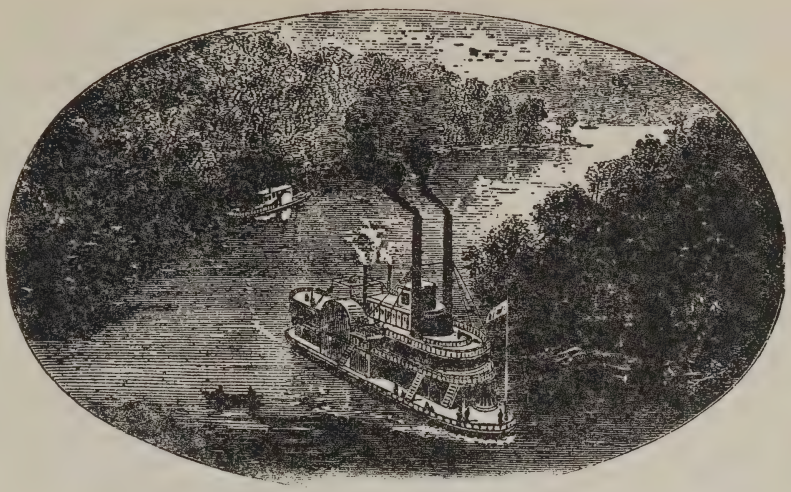
Mark Twain's "Life on the Mississippi" is of course unrivaled both as a literary gem and sourcebook on the steamboat days. Edna Ferber's "Showboat" sparkles with the romance that still clings tenaciously to our inland waters. Although cumbersome in detail and arrangement E. W. Gould's "Fifty Years on the Mississippi" contains a wealth of information (much of it downright interesting) on the Ohio, the Illinois, the Upper Mississippi and the Missouri, as well as on the river below St. Louis. Herbert Quick's "American Inland Waterways" focuses sharply on the significance of transportation in the Midwest at the dawn of the 20th century.

For brief, readable descriptions of the Great Lakes one may browse through James Oliver Curwood's "The Great Lakes," Channing and Lansing's "The Story of the Great Lakes" and Walter Havighurst's "The Long Ships Passing."

Measured in terms of literary grace and accurate craftsmanship the American Lake Series under the general editorship of Milo M. Quaife stands in a class by itself. Although the entire series is excellent I prefer Dr. Quaife's "Lake Michigan" and Grace Lee Nute's "Lake Superior."

A score of books on La Belle Riviere might be enumerated. Reuben Gold Thwaites' "Afloat on the Ohio" is a well-written and accurate account of a pilgrimage by skiff down the Monongahela and Ohio to Cairo in 1897. Clark B. Firestone's "Sycamore Shores" and "Flowing South" both show literary grace and enthusiasm. More comprehensive are Archer B. Hulbert's "The Ohio River: A Course of Empire" and C. H. Ambler's "Transportation in the Ohio Valley," the latter being an especially well-balanced account from the keelboat era to modern towboat days.

The Upper Mississippi has challenged a score of writers. George B. Merrick's "Old Times on the Upper Mississippi" recalls the old packet days, while Walter A. Blair's "A Raft Pilot's Log" and Charles E. Russell's "A-Rafting on the Mississippi" bring back memories of the part the river played in the days of "come-and-get-it." Mildred Hartsough's "From Canoe to Steel Barge on the Upper Mississippi" is the most complete survey, while Capt. Frank J. Fugina's "Lore and Lure



From "Prairie Farms and Prairie Folk," by Parker Gillmore, 1872.
"*On the Wabash*"

of the Scenic Upper Mississippi" is a veteran's profusely illustrated volume of the last 60 years of steamboating.

John G. Neihardt's "The River and I" pays glowing tribute to the Missouri, the longest of American rivers. Hiram M. Chittenden makes a more scientific appraisal of the Big Muddy in his two-volume life of Capt. Joseph La Barge, "History of Early Steamboat Navigation on the Missouri River." Equally authentic is Joseph Mills Hanson's "The Conquest of the Missouri," which portrays the life of a veteran steamboat captain, Grant Marsh, and has only recently been reprinted.

It is not without significance that half the volumes in the Rivers of America Series deal with Midwestern streams.

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

Iowa State Historical Society

From "Bruce & Company, Type Specimens," 1848

RAILROADS

FOR those who are interested in railways in the Midwest there are many books of varying scope and quality.

Curiously enough, there is little about Chicago itself as a railway center, although in the 75th anniversary number of the Journal of the Western Society of Engineers (December, 1944) there is a brief but comprehensive account titled "Chicago Becomes the Nation's Railway Capital."

Those interested in the details of operation should read Harold Melvin Mayer's "The Railway Pattern of Metropolitan Chicago" (U. of Chicago, 1943).

Circling the city in clockwise fashion, we can recommend Henry Greenleaf Pearson's "An American Railroad Builder" (Houghton Mifflin, 1911) on the Michigan Central, and Edward Hungerford's two-volume "The Story of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad" (Putnam, 1928) and his recent excellent "Men of Erie" (Random House, 1946). H. W. Schotter's "The Growth and Development of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, 1846-1926" (Allen, Lane & Scott, 1927) contains considerable information about the western portions of that trunk line. Frank F. Hargrave's "A Pioneer Indiana Railroad" (Burford Printing Co., 1932) is the standard account of the Chicago, Indianapolis and Louisville, commonly known as the "Monon," and may shortly be brought up to date.

The best book on the earlier period of the Illinois Central is Paul W. Gates' "The Illinois Central and Its Colonization Work" (Harvard U. Press, 1934), although a shorter and more comprehensive treatment is Carlton J. Corliss' booklet "Trails to Rails" (Illinois Central Railway Co., 1934). The best story, again in pamphlet form, of the Rock Island is F. J. Nevin's "Seventy Years of Service" (Rock Island Co., 1922). The Burlington is represented by R. C. Overton's "Burlington West" (Harvard U. Press, 1941) and a shorter pamphlet available from the company titled "The First Ninety Years."

The most complete — though poorly organized—account of the North Western is "Chicago and North Western Railway: Yesterday and Today" (1905). A pamphlet titled "A Brief History of the Chicago and North Western Line" has recently been issued and is available from the company. At intervals the Milwaukee has republished a brief record of the development of its line by F. H. Johnson entitled "The Milwaukee Road"; it too is available from the company. A scholarly and highly readable account of the earlier years of both the Milwaukee and the North Western may be found in Frederick Merk's "Economic History of Wisconsin During the Civil War Decade" (State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1916).

Roy L. Martin's "History of the Wisconsin Central," published as Bulletin No. 54 of the Railway and Locomotive Historical Society (Boston, January, 1941) is an excellent history of that road, which is now part of the Soo Line. The best book on the Santa Fe is Glenn D. Bradley's "The Story of the Santa Fe" (Gorham Press, 1920). A more recent account, which is colorful but uneven and unreliable, is James Marshall's "Santa Fe" (Random House, 1945).

Ranging further afield, we should mention George Kennan's two-volume biography, "E. H. Harriman" (Houghton Mifflin, 1922); Eugene V. Smalley's classic, "History of the Northern Pacific Railroad" (Putnam, 1883); James B. Hedges' "Henry Villard and the Railways of the Northwest" (Yale U. Press, 1930); Nelson Trottman's "History of the Union Pacific" (Roland Press, 1923); and Henry K. White's "History of the Union Pacific Railway" (U. of Chicago Press, 1895).

S. G. Reed's "A History of the Texas Railroads" (St. Clair Publishing Co., 1941) is well worth reading, as is Stuart Daggett's "Railroad Consolidation West of the Mississippi River" (U. of California Press, 1933).

There are numerous books of a general nature which have much to do with Midwestern railways. Among them are: John Moody's " The Railroad Builders" (Yale U. Press, 1921), Frank P. Morse's "Cavalcade of the Rails" (Dutton, 1940), Glenn Chesney Quiett's "They Built the West" (Appleton-Century, 1934), Slason Thompson's "Short History of American Railways Covering Ten Decades" (D. Appleton, 1925), and Robert E. Riegel's "The Story of the Western Railroads" (Macmillan, 1926).

RICHARD C. OVERTON

Northwestern University

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From "The Chicago & Pacific Railroad," by George H. Daniels.

BOOKS ABOUT WISCONSIN

by Clifford Lord, Wisconsin State Historical Society

August W. Derleth, "The Wisconsin, a River of a Thousand Isles." Farrar & Rinehart, 1942.

James Gray, "Pine, Stream and Prairie: Wisconsin and Minnesota in Profile." Knopf, 1945.

Louise P. Kellogg, "British Regime in Wisconsin and the Northwest." State Historical Society, 1935.

Louise P. Kellogg, "French Regime in Wisconsin and the Northwest." State Historical Society. 1925.

Juliette A. Kinzie (Mrs. John H.), "Wau-bun, the 'Early Day' in the Northwest." Donnelley, 1932.

Robert M. La Follette, "La Follette's Autobiography." La Follette. Madison, 1913.

Milo M. Quaife, "Wisconsin, Its History and Its People, 1634-1924." Clark, Chicago, 1924. 4 volumes.

William F. Raney, "Wisconsin, A Story of Progress." Prentice-Hall, 1940.

Joseph Schafer, "A History of Agriculture in Wisconsin." State Historical Society, Madison, 1922.

Writers' Program, "Wisconsin: A Guide to the Badger State." Duell, Sloan & Pearce. 1941.

THE FARM

NOTHING like the agricultural Midwest has ever existed before. And it will never be repeated on this earth.

It is unique in its numbers of prosperous farmers, in their political power, in their ability to mechanize and to apply technology. No other country in the world ever had a rural population such as this. The land itself is unique. Nothing like the upper Mississippi Valley remains to be exploited by mankind. The race is at the end of its search for land which makes great cities possible because it can produce surplus food. The future history of hunger vs. plenty, of malnutrition vs. health, will be made in this valley of the Mississippi.

One would expect the books about this agriculture to be unique in their own right. And many are.

Louis Bromfield's "The Farm" is unique among his novels and is perhaps his best. There is a Populist fire to these pages, a challenge to a country which in the 1920s was satisfied with the surface signs of prosperity in town while agriculture was in trouble.

Bromfield's "Pleasant Valley," published in 1945, is a sign of the country's increasing awareness of the problems of land and farmers. Its story of how Bromfield went back to Ohio and built a productive farm from run-down acres is as much a badge of its time as "The Farm" was a badge of the 1920s.

American fiction is rich with tales of Midwestern farming: Ole Rolvaag's "Giants in the Earth," Mari Sandoz's "Old Jules," Ruth Suckow's "Iowa Interiors," Willa Cather's "My Antonia" and Homer Croy's "West of the Water Tower," with its wonderful description of threshing, should not be left off any list, no matter how brief. Laura Ingalls Wilder's books for children should not be overlooked; "On the Banks of Plum Creek" and others in the series recreate pioneer farm life as no others succeed in doing.

The unique quality of Midwestern agriculture becomes apparent again in the all too sparse literature of its great revolt. Though it had strong Southern overtones, and enlisted many leaders from the South, the revolt of the farmers against domination by Northeastern capital was largely a Midwestern movement. Solon J. Buck told about it in "The Agrarian Crusade." The best study of the Populist movement itself is John D. Hicks' "The Populist Revolt." His bibliography is a gold mine.

For latter-day developments there is Arthur Capper's "The Agricultural Bloc," published in 1922, when senators from farm states had just begun to be recognized as a pressure group. Wesley McCune in "The Farm Bloc" brings this kind of political action down to the present time. Henry Wallace's "New Frontiers" belongs on any list of books about agriculture as a political force. Not that Wallace was ever accepted by the Midwestern farmer as one of his leaders. But Wallace in this book does develop the philosophy back of the New Deal agricultural laws, and these laws marked the end of one era in farming.

The most famous evaluation of Midwestern agriculture as a cultural and political force is Frederick Jackson Turner's "The Frontier in American History." First published in 1894, this famous essay, a landmark in American thought, attributed American political, social and moral ideas to the influence of the frontier, which had ended, he argued, in the 1890s.

The South has begun to do biographical justice to some of its agricultural leaders of the past. In recent years, for example, scholarly works have been published on "Pitchfork Ben" Tillman and Tom Watson. The Midwest still has this task to do. Some day such men as Gen. James B. Weaver, Ignatius Donnelly and Sockless Jerry Simpson will be reappraised and adequate books written about them. In the meantime, there is Lloyd Lewis' book, "John S. Wright: Prophet of the Prairie," which tells of the work of the founder of The Prairie Farmer in changing pioneer agricultural methods.

The flavor of Midwestern rural life can be found in Charles Allen Smart's "R.F.D.," and for a current appraisal by an intelligent British observer, references to farms and farming in Graham Hutton's "Midwest at Noon" will be suggestive.

There remains an unclassified recommendation. The 1941 Year Book of the Department of Agriculture, called "Farmers in a Changing World," is in a class by itself. Its bibliographies alone are invaluable. It is not to be read lightly, but it does reveal the uniqueness of Midwestern agriculture, its importance to our past, and its vital place in our future.

ARTHUR MOORE

Chicago

BOOKS ABOUT OHIO

by James H. Rodabaugh, Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society

Sherwood Anderson, "Winesburg, Ohio." B. W. Huebsch, N. Y., 1919.

Louis Bromfield, "The Farm." Harper, 1946.

Edna Maria Clark, "Ohio Art and Artists." Richmond, Garrett & Massie, 1932.

Harlan Hatcher, "The Buckeye Country: A Pageant of Ohio." Kinsey, N. Y., 1940.

Henry Howe, "Historical Collections of Ohio—Ohio Centennial Edition." H. Howe, Columbus, 1889-91. 3 vols. in 2.

Ohio Development and Publicity Commission, "Ohio, An Empire Within an Empire." Columbus, 1944.

Eugene H. Roseboom and Francis P. Weisenburger, "A History of Ohio." Prentice-Hall, 1934.

Henry C. Shetrone, "The Mound Builders." Appleton - Century, 1936.

Carl Wittke, Editor, "The History of the State of Ohio." Ohio State Archaeological and Historical Society, 1941-1944. 6 vols.

Writers' Program, "The Ohio Guide." Oxford, 1940. Revised edition, 1946.

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

THE rise of the United States to the position of the world's leading industrial country has been accomplished in the short space of three centuries, with most of the progress coming during the last hundred years.

An appreciable part of American industry, particularly steel, automobiles and food production, is in the Midwest between the Ohio River and the Great Lakes.

Where can the Midwesterner turn to find the story of the development of industry and its handmaiden, commerce, in his own region? There is no single book which encompasses the story, but parts can be pieced together from biographies, company and industrial histories, and studies of a particular geographical area.

Biographies are fairly common, but only a few stand out. Allan Nevins used the family papers to produce a sympathetic account of "John D. Rockefeller: The Heroic Age of American Enterprise." His account is more than a biography; it is a history of the oil industry.

Of a somewhat similar nature is Ida Tarbell's "Life of Elbert H. Gary: The Story of Steel," which portrays the activities of a Chicago lawyer who, as one of the earliest business statesmen, helped to organize the steel industry. A companion volume is Henry O. Evans' "Iron Pioneer: Henry W. Oliver, 1840-1904," which describes the development of the steel industry and its relation to the "red stain of iron" in Michigan and Minnesota.

The Midwest is a primary producer of foodstuffs, and various industries devoted to the processing of food followed the agricultural frontier into the Mississippi Valley. The meat packing industry is the subject of R. A. Clemen's "American Livestock and Meat Industry." Louis F. Swift and Arthur Van Vlissingen Jr. in "The Yankee of the Yards: The Biography of Gustavus Franklin Swift" describe the growth of a business built on thrift and by-products and give a son's impressions of his father. The character which emerges is a hard-driving, tight-fisted Yankee who discovered that it was cheaper to send dressed meat than live animals to the Eastern markets. Unfortunately, the story is not carried beyond 1893.

A contemporary and rival of Swift appears in "Armour and His times," by Harper Leech and John C. Carroll. Philip D. Armour, a farmer boy from upstate New York, got into meat-packing through the provision business in Milwaukee. He became the pork baron of America, but also plunged in the grain markets.

Another great Midwestern businessman is delineated by William T. Hutchinson in "Cyrus Hall McCormick." Based on the papers in the McCormick Historical Society, the figure that appears is not so much an inventor as a salesman of agricultural implements.

Arthur Pound's "The Turning Wheel: The Story of General Motors Through Twenty-Five Years: 1908-1933" gathers tales of R. E. Olds, David D. Buick, Louis Chevrolet and W. C. Durant and threads them into a history of the corporation which resulted from their efforts.

A vivid fictional presentation of the development of the motor in-

dustry in the Midwest is to be found in the novel, "A Bashful Woman," by Kenneth Horan.

An outstanding company history came as the result of a scholar's interest and a company's co-operation. H. J. Thornton's "History of The Quaker Oats Company," based upon company records, trade publications and newspapers, shows how industrial growth, managerial ability, technical developments, expanding markets, advertising and business consolidation have affected the growth of a food company.

On the whole, biographies of business leaders and regional studies are the most satisfactory of accounts of business and industrial developments. Company or industry histories are generally unsatisfactory, since they pay scant attention to the business methods and organization which have made the business or industry successful. Usually, company histories are little more than promotional literature.

There is great need for company histories which will present the factors which have influenced management decisions. Books of this nature would be of inestimable value to young executives and would also contribute to a public understanding of the problems of the businessman. The preparation of such studies can be accomplished by economists and economic historians in co-operation with businessmen.

RODNEY C. LOEHR

Minnesota Historical Society

BOOKS ABOUT ILLINOIS

by Jay Monaghan, Illinois State Library

Fawn Brodie, "No Man Knows My History: The Life of Joseph Smith." Knopf, 1945.

James Gray, "The Illinois." Farrar & Rinehart, 1940.

Juliette A. Kinzie (Mrs. John H.) "Wau-bun, the 'Early Day' in the Northwest." Donnelley, 1932.

Lloyd Lewis and Henry Justin Smith, "Chicago, the History of Its Reputation." Harcourt, Brace, 1929.

Edgar Lee Masters, "Children of the Market Place." Macmillan, 1922.

Randall Parrish, "Historic Illinois, the Romance of the Earlier Days." McClurg, 1905.

Theodore C. Pease, "Frontier State, 1818 - 1848." Centennial Commission, Springfield, 1918.

James Matthew Phalen, "Sinnissippi, A Valley Under a Spell." Army Medical Museum, Washington, 1942.

Carl Sandburg, "Abraham Lincoln: the Prairie Years." Harcourt, Brace, 1926, 2 vols.

Writers' Program, "Illinois: A Descriptive and Historical Guide." McClurg, 1947, revised edition.

IMMIGRATION

WHILE there is no satisfactory general history of the immigrants the best available volume is Carl Wittke's "We Who Built America" (1939). This may profitably be supplemented by the older "History of American Immigration" by G. M. Stephenson (1926). The late Prof. M. L. Hansen of the University of Illinois left three manuscripts to be published: "The Atlantic Migration, 1607-1860" (1940 Pulitzer Prize in History); "The Immigrant in American History" (1940), a collection of interpretive essays, and "The Mingling of the Canadian and American Peoples" (1940) — all useful for the Midwest. Mention should also be made of D. F. Bowers' "Foreign Influences in American Life" (1944), especially for the extensive bibliographical sections.

There is no satisfactory volume on the Irish element in the Midwest, but E. A. Fitzpatrick's lively biography of "McCarthy of Wisconsin" (1943) reveals the political gifts of the Irish, while such novels as Elizabeth Corbett's "Light of Other Days," (1938) and J. T. Farrell's "Studs Lonigan" (1935) are effective portrayals of life among the Irish of Illinois.

On the Germans there is the older work by A. B. Faust, "The German Element in the United States" (1909, 1927), but for the 19th century this has been largely superseded by J. A. Hawgood's somewhat mistitled "The Tragedy of German America: The Germans in the United States of America During the Nineteenth Century and After" (1940). Autobiographical works such as Richard Bartholdt's "From Steerage to Congress" (1930) and Carl Schurz's "Reminiscences" (1907-08), both dealing in part with German life in St. Louis, are useful.

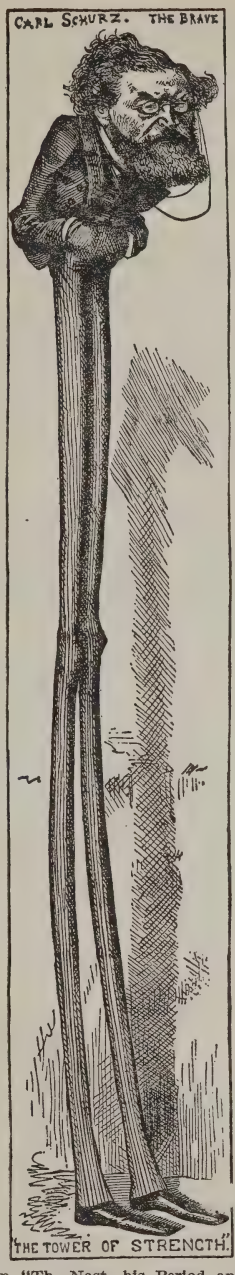
Aleida J. Pieters' "A Dutch Settlement in Michigan" (1923) and Arnold Mulder's novel, "Bram of the Five Corners" (1915) reveal much about the Michigan Dutch, while Jacob Van Der Zee, in "The Hollanders in Iowa" (1912) tells the story of the establishment of the Pella settlement. On the Chicago Dutch there are Amry Vandenbosch's "The Dutch Communities of Chicago" (1927) and D. C. DeJong's novel, "Belly Fulla Straw" (1935).

J. P. von Grueningen's "The Swiss in the United States" (1940) is useful, as is Peter Wiernik's "History of the Jews in America" (1931). On the latter group one also may recommend E. A. Steiner's autobiography, "From Alien to Citizen" (1914).

The standard work on the Italians remains R. F. Foerster's "Italian Emigration of Our Times" (1919).

On the immigrants from Eastern Europe, convenient brief accounts with bibliographies are to be found in "One America" (1945), edited by F. J. Brown and J. S. Roucek. Special mention must be made, however, of Willa Cather's "My Antonia" (1926) concerning Czech pioneers.

Of all the Midwestern immigrant groups, the Norwegians have been best served by their historians and novelists, while the Swedes also have been well studied. The Danes to date have been less well served. For all three groups, K. C. Babcock's "Scandinavian Element in the United States" (1914) remains useful, but more recent publica-



From "Th. Nast, his Period and his Pictures," by Albert Bigelow Paine.

tions on the Norwegians and Swedes have replaced Babcock's pioneer study. Dean Theodore C. Blegen's "Norwegian Migration to America" (1931-40) is a notable combination of learned research with felicity of expression, particularly the second volume, subtitled "The American Transition."

Notable also are "The Changing West and Other Essays" (1937) and "The Log Book of a Young Immigrant" (1939) by the late Prof. Laurence M. Larson of the University of Illinois, and "A Long Pull from Stavanger" (1945) by a Chicago businessman, Birger Osland. Uniquely interesting as translated and edited by Dean Blegen and the late Prof. Martin B. Ruud is "Norwegian Emigrant Ballads and Songs" (1936).

One of the truly great works on immigrant adaptation to the American environment is O. E. Rolvaag's "Giants in the Earth" (1927). This novel, with its setting on the South Dakota frontier, has become a classic in its field.

On the Swedish element in the Middle West, the best quality study is G. M. Stephenson's too narrowly titled book, "The Religious Aspects of Swedish Immigration" (1932). To this excellent volume should be added F. E. Janson's "The Background of Swedish Immigration, 1840-1930" (1931) and Nels Hokanson's lively "Swedish Immigrants in Lincoln's Time" (1942). An important contemporary autobiography of a Minnesota Swedish immigrant is Hans Mattson's "Reminiscences" (1892).

In addition to the books for each group, there is much informal material, such as Louis Adamic's "From Many Lands" (1940) and "A Nation of Nations" (1944), Fred L. Holmes' "Old World Wisconsin, Around Europe in the Badger State" (1914), and Alice L. Sickles' "Around the World in St. Paul" (1945).

CARLETON C. QUALEY

Carleton College

CHICAGO FIRSTS

THOUGH Chicago has never seriously threatened the reputations of Boston and New York as publishing centers, a record of books it published for the first time is impressive evidence that the publishing which has been done has been marked by high standards of excellence.

Outstanding among early publishing firms was that founded by Herbert S. Stone and Hannibal Ingalls Kimball in 1893 as the outgrowth of a friendship that began during student days together on the Harvard Crimson. By 1897 when Kimball withdrew to join the Cheltenham Press in New York these partners had published 104 titles. Subsequently known as Herbert S. Stone & Co., the firm had a list of 200 titles when in 1905 it was sold to Duffield & Co. which in turn later was incorporated into the present-day Dodd, Mead publishing house. Many of these titles were distinguished "firsts."

In 1894, for example, the partners published a 500-copy first edition of Henrik Ibsen's play "Little Eyolf"; George Santayana's "Sonnets and Other Verses," his first published work other than his doctoral thesis; and "The Plays of Maurice Maeterlinck" which the Belgian playwright indicated in an inscription in Stone's book was the only translation authorized by him for America.

After the dissolution of the partnership in 1896, Stone published a novel by Gabriele D'Annunzio, "Episcopo & Co.," marking that author's first appearance in English.

In 1898 came the first American publication of the two-volume "Plays: Pleasant and Unpleasant" by Bernard Shaw. He must have been a more mellow Shaw in those days, as the "pleasant" plays outnumbered the "unpleasant" four to three. Another Shaw volume, now on display at the Newberry library, was "Love Among the Artists," Shaw's third novel that had originally run as a serial but which Stone published in book form after changes were made to protect the copyright.

Stone also brought out the first three books by George Ade: "Artie," a collection of clippings from Ade's column in the Chicago Record; "Pink Marsh," an assortment of short stories; and "Fables in Slang."

In 1901 Stone hit a real best seller in "Graustark" by George Barr McCutcheon, subtitled "The Story of a Love Behind a Throne." In "A History of Stone & Kimball and Herbert S. Stone & Co." by Sidney Kramer (from which most of this information about the firm is taken) a footnote tells that Stone bought the manuscript outright for only $500 in order to have complete freedom in making revisions. Kramer said the author was not displeased and later was voluntarily paid royalties on the reprints.

Another turn - of - the - century classic with Stone's imprint was "The Damnation of Theron Ware" by Harold Frederic and now a minor American classic.

As contemporaries of Stone & Kimball, two other firms also contributed to the beginning of Chicago's cultural selfconsciousness. W. Irving Way and Chauncey Williams (Way & Williams) put Edgar Lee Masters' writing between hard covers for the first time in "A Book of Verses" (1898). In the same year they published Opie Read's "Bolanyo." In 1897

they brought out "The Story of Ab" by Stanley Waterloo, called in those days before anthropology had become a household word, "a tale of the time of the caveman."

The other firm active about this time was Francis J. Schulte & Co. In 1892 Schulte published "The Monk and the Hangman's Daughter" by Ambrose Bierce and G. A. Danziger, using two-color printing on the title page. In 1890 he signed a contract with Opie Read for "A Kentucky Colonel," but the former Arkansas traveler seemed to have a hard time staying put and when "An Arkansas Planter" came out in 1896, Rand-McNally were the publishers.

Bewhiskered Fleming H. Revell, together with George H. Doran who was later to become one of America's outstanding publishers in Doubleday, Doran, was another prominent publisher. He brought out "The Sky Pilot" (1899) and "Black Rock" (1901), both by Ralph Connor, and another excellent "first" in Roswell M. Field's "The Bondage of Ballinger." (Revell's office boy was a young man of some ambition and promise named Vincent Starrett.)

Two Edgar Saltus volumes were brought out for the first time here: "Imperial Purple" (Morrill, Higgins, 1892) and "The Truth About Tristrem Varick" (Belford Clarke, 1888). In 1895 a Chicagoan who must have been destined for the literary life from birth, F. Tennyson Neely, published Robert W. Chambers' "The King in Yellow."

The fame of two other Chicago "firsts" is still bright today. One, "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz" by L. Frank Baum, was published in 1900 by the George M. Hill Co. The drawings by W. W. Denslow, reproduced in color in this first edition, are still inseparably associated with this famous story.

Another renowned tale to come from a Chicago press was "Tarzan of the Apes" by West-Sider Edgar Rice Burroughs, published in 1914 by A. C. McClurg & Co. McClurg's is today a wholesale book distributor, though it occasionally publishes such titles as the recent "Illinois Guide." Another McClurg pioneer venture was Clarence Darrow's novelized account of his boyhood, "Farmington" (1904).

Title page for the first edition of a notable "best seller" published in Chicago.

When Ben Hecht was a Chicagoan in the early 1920s he found a congenial publisher in Covici-McGee, headed by Pascal Covici (now an editor of Viking Press) and William McGee, a former priest. Vincent Starrett calls Covici "one of the most important influences on the literary renascence of the '20s." The press began as a bookshop on W. Washington street. Every Saturday afternoon local authors would walk down the three steps leading to the store to join a group of "regulars" and argue the burning literary issues of the day.

Hecht's first volume, "1001 Afternoons in Chicago," was published in 1924; another, "Fantazius Mallare," with illustrations by Wallace Smith, whose black

and white drawings were world famous, was suppressed by the government and brought fines to publisher and author.

No survey of publishing history in Chicago would be complete without mention of the University of Chicago Press which today is larger than many New York publishing houses. Among its many titles that may be mentioned are two of world significance: "The New Testament: An American Translation" done by Dr. Edgar J. Goodspeed (1923), the first appearance of any part of the Bible in the American language; and "The Text of the Canterbury Tales" (1940), by John Matthews Manly and Edith Rickert, a life-time labor that produced the only text based on a study of all known manuscripts.

The first of Carl Sandburg's work, a pamphlet, "In Reckless Ecstasy," was printed by the Asgard Press in Galesburg while Sandburg was a student at Knox College. Philip Reed Wright, who owned the press, was the father of Quincy Wright, now professor of international law at the University of Chicago. Young Quincy set the type—and wrote an introduction—for the poet's first appearance. Sandburg reciprocated with an introduction for a pamphlet written by Wright at the same time.

Among private publishers, Walter M. Hill and Frank M. Morris, both of whom had offices in the Marshall Field & Co. annex, must be mentioned. It was Hill who published Vincent Starrett's first volume, a monograph on the English writer, Arthur Machen. Nor would the list be complete without tribute to Ralph Fletcher Seymour, who is still active today. It was Seymour who first published Henry B. Fuller's "Bertram Cope's Year."

John T. McCutcheon's cartoons, so indigenous to the Midwest, have been published by McClurg in "Bird Center Cartoons" and by Dodd, Mead in "Dawson 11, Fortune Hunter."

EMMETT DEDMON

Chicago

BOOKS ABOUT MINNESOTA

by Mary W. Berthel, Minnesota Historical Society

Theodore C. Blegen, "Building Minnesota." Heath, Boston, 1938.

Helen Clapesattle, "The Doctors Mayo." U. of Minnesota Press, 1941.

William W. Folwell, "A History of Minnesota." Minnesota Historical Society, 1921-1930. 4 vols.

James Gray, "Pine, Stream and Prairie: Wisconsin and Minnesota in Profile." Knopf, 1945.

Walter Havighurst, "Upper Mississippi: A Wilderness Saga." Farrar & Rinehart, 1944.

Meridel Le Sueur, "North Star Country." Duell, Sloan & Pearce, 1945.

Minnesota Historical Society, "Minnesota: The North Star State in Pictures." 1946.

Grace Lee Nute, "The Voyageur's Highway: Minnesota's Border Lake Land." Minnesota Historical Society, 1941.

Writers' Program, "Minnesota, A State Guide." Viking, 1938.

Writers' Program, "The Minnesota Arrowhead Country." Whitman, 1941.

ENGLISH MIDWEST BOOK SHELF

FEW Americans, and fewer Midwesterners, have any idea how general was the Midwestern background of English boys and girls up to this century. My earliest recollections are of my mother's tucking me up under a "buffalo robe"; of wigwams and bows and arrows and squaws and papooses; of Fenimore Cooper, Uncle Remus (American wild life, if Southern), Huck Finn, Mark Twain and—believe it or not, purloined from Dad's study—Washington Irving.

Yet till I was 12 the only man I ever met who'd ever been in the States was an Irish handyman we had who ranked in my eyes as equal to Hawkeye because he'd had to hang off'n a trestle-bridge to save himself when the train came on the other end. The scars, bitten into his wrists by the pounding of that freight as he hung in a "half-lever," were in my eyes finer than those of a German duelling student. That was just about 1914, when I met him. None of our very English middle-class family had ever gone to America; and certainly, if they had, none ever came back. But the Midwest, the plains and prairies and Rockies and lakes, the wild life, even the lingo of the pioneer—all this was familiar folklore.

Since then I've lived quite a slice of my adult life there, and am now back in a drab, austere, apprehensive and discouraged England. If poetry is, as Wordsworth thought, emotion recollected in tranquility, what poetry of the Midwest is distilled in my mind today? How has the bookish version of the Older Midwest stood up to the reality, once the boy has changed into the man and gone to live in his childhood's Utopia? What does the Midwest and its folk stand for in my remote, tranquilized, contemplative, reminiscent mind?

First and foremost, I think, for something remarkably akin to the imagined picture of childhood: namely, vigor, extremes (climatic and other), luxuriant nature, energy, hard work, hard play, constructiveness — all of them modern versions of pioneering qualities. Secondly, among Midwesterners, kindliness, generosity and a humorous tolerance for all intolerance — the qualities found in Sam Clemens, Irving, Cooper's white or red characters. And thirdly, perhaps most important and demarcating from other American regions, an adolescent optimism, exaggeration, experimentalism, sanguineness—yes, and all the credulousness, naivete, and satisfaction with material results, that go with youthfulness.

Back in England I find myself talking to my Chicago-born children about William Allen White as I (alas! too slightly) knew him: about his Kansas. And when they've gone to bed I tend more and more frequently to assess the current American political crises—crises in America's as in the world's history—in terms of those late 19th and early 20th century decades when "Bill" was manipulating Kansas and Missouri progressives and helping the Bull Moose to bring Republicans into the main current of a new America's new stream of thought.

I find Bill's "Autobiography" gets replaced in my library most frequently next to Botkin's "Treasury of American Folklore" (more Midwestern than anything else), next to those wonderful and rare volumes by the Federal Writers' Projects on each state, next to

Quaife's "Chicago and the Old Northwest," Hubbart's "The Older Middle West," and, of course, Frederick Jackson Turner's inspiring volumes. It's hard now to know why I'm always eagerly taking down Beveridge's "Lincoln," first volume; Lloyd Lewis' "John S. Wright: Prophet of the Prairies"; Dick's "Vanguards of the Frontier"; and Channing's "History of the United States."

But this is history, and 99 per cent of Midwesterners believe "the past is a bucket of ashes." So I take my last half-hour before the mean and sinking fire reading "Red" Lewis, or Jim Farrell, or Hamlin Garland, Willa Cather, George Ade's sketches and the even more forcefully distilled versions in poetry of the Midwest by Sandburg, Masters, Riley, Field, Lindsay and the rest.

It's an extraordinarily vital and vivid half-century of literary output in the Midwest, 1865-1915—the longest and most peaceful period of independent America and the most rapidly prospering in material terms. But sometimes I wonder if, say in 2000 A.D., future historians will rate it as genuinely creative as the epoch we are all now painfully floundering through, the 1915-and-onward era. Who are we to tell? How many Midwest cities, towns, farms shelter new "village Hampdens," or Miltons, or Thomas Wolfes?

Well, what is the Midwest, what are Midwesterners, doing to unearth them? That they are there, that the literary fecundity of a Clemens or Sandburg, the pungent humanitarianism of a Lincoln, is not a "sport" or random mutation, is surely obvious. Nature doesn't throw up quite as much genius in a small compass as she did in the Midwest between 1850 and 1900, or 1880 and 1930, without passing it on.

BY GRAHAM HUTTON

MIDWEST AT NOON

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS · CHICAGO

The most richly endowed, richly equipped, most productive region of the republic can afford a trifling investment in a new kind of social research: the better equipped, better paid research of public education, to unearth and select the imaginatively gifted little Midwesterners—and, above all, to set up truly remunerative Midwestern institutions that can afford to keep the most gifted Midwesterners in the Midwest. Have better paid teachers, better selected and better trained minds. Make the little red schoolhouse, in its modern Midwest version, even more productive of natural geniuses than it was. And how it was! But, poor as they were, no pioneer begrudged the schoolteacher a living that, compared with the rest of the community, was a fair one!

It's at this point I put down my Midwest books, confident in seeing them soon multiplied with others, by younger Midwest men and women, enriching and carrying forward the richest heritage in the world: the English tongue.

GRAHAM HUTTON

London

RECENT TRENDS

IN SEARCH of clues as to the direction of Midwest literary production since the end of World War II, I have surveyed the pages of BOOK WEEK. In 80 weekly issues which I have examined, from V-J Day to March 30, 1947, I have found reviews of 115 books by Midwestern writers, and/or dealing primarily with Midwestern materials. (I have omitted books for younger readers, and books primarily scholarly or technical.) There have been 52 novels, seven volumes of short stories, 25 books of history and biography, 12 autobiographies and "family" books, seven volumes of poetry, 12 miscellaneous.

The fiction has been especially rich. During this period some of the established novelists of the region have added materially to their records of achievement, notably Susan Glaspell with "Judd Rankin's Daughter," David Cornel DeJong with "Somewhat Angels," Arthur Meeker Jr. with "The Far Away Music," Conrad Richter with "The Fields," and Louis Zara with "Ruth Middleton."

At least equally significant has been the advance marked by a somewhat younger generation, represented in this period chiefly by second and third novels. Among these I would note especially "Any Number Can Play," by Edward Harris Heth; "Boy Almighty" and "This Is the Year," by Feike Feikema; "The Snake Pit," by Mary Jane Ward; "The Long Year," by Ann Chidester; "The World of Idella May," by Richard Sullivan, and "The Thresher," by Herbert Krause.

Most promising for the future is the number of first novels of competence and integrity included in the list: "Duty to Live," by Emmett Dedmon; "The Devil Is Loneliness," by Elma Lobaugh; "Walk with a Separate Pride," by Sheila Alexander; at least ten all told.

Including nonfiction with fiction in quest of general trends, I have put together a list of 12 books from the 115 which I, as an individual reader, value most highly: the Midwestern books of this period which I place on my shelves with the strongest expectation of their lasting importance, those to which I would look with most confidence for reflection of significant directions in current regional literary production. This is the list, assembled not without difficulty and regret for omission, let me say, with the dates on which reviews appeared in BOOK WEEK:

"America Is West" (regional anthology), edited by John T. Flanagan (U. of Minnesota Press). Oct. 14, 1945.

"Black Metropolis" (sociological study), by St. Clair Drake and Horace R. Cayton (Harcourt, Brace). Oct. 28, 1945.

"The Far Away Music" (novel), by Arthur Meeker Jr. (Houghton Mifflin). Nov. 4, 1945.

"The Friendly Persuasion" (short stories), by Jessamyn West (Harcourt, Brace), Nov. 18, 1945.

"Wasteland" (novel), by Jo Sinclair (Harper). Feb. 24, 1946.

"The Autobiography of William Allen White" (Macmillan). March 3, 1946.

"Goodbye Son and Other Stories" (short stories), by Janet Lewis (Doubleday). March 10, 1946.

"Midwest at Noon" (regional analysis), by Graham Hutton (U. of Chicago Press). May 7, 1946.

"American Daughter" (autobiography), by Era Bell Thompson (U. of Chicago Press). May 28, 1946.

"The World of Idella May" (novel), by Richard Sullivan (Doubleday). Nov. 24, 1946.

"The Selected Letters of William Allen White," edited by Walter Johnson (Holt). Jan. 26, 1947.

"The Neon Wilderness" (short stories), by Nelson Algren (Doubleday), Jan. 26, 1947.

I believe we may find in some of these books—and in our Midwestern reception of them, for it is the literary process as a whole in the region that we need to evaluate, our reading as well as our writing—something newly characteristic, perhaps worthy to be called a trend: the capacity for objective criticism and the acceptance of criticism, of analytical writing about the Midwest of today.

True, one of the most important books in my group, and the one which most clearly illustrates this quality, was written not by a native Midwesterner but by an Englishman: Graham Hutton's "Midwest at Noon"; but something in the intellectual climate of the region at this time made this book not only possible but welcome. Marked in its critical timeliness, certainly, is "Black Metropolis." The autobiography and letters of William Allen White, and Era Bell Thompson's fine autobiographical book, carry in their widely different ways clear-sighted and constructive criticism of the region. All this suggests a certain arrival at maturity, argues a certain poise and wholeness, which seem to me markedly illustrated in Dr. Flanagan's judicious examination of our whole literary history in "America Is West."

JOHN T. FREDERICK

Glennie, Michigan

BOOKS ABOUT MISSOURI

by Floyd C. Shoemaker, State Historical Society of Missouri

Howard L. Conard, Editor, "Encyclopedia of the History of Missouri." Southern History, 1901. 6 vols.

Louis Houck, "A History of Missouri." Donnelly, 1908. 3 vols.

"The Missouri Historical Review." Vols. 1-40. 1906-1946. State Historical Society of Missouri.

Vance Randolph, Editor. "Ozark Folksongs." Vol. 1. State Historical Society, Columbia, 1946.

John Thomas Scharf, "History of St. Louis City and County, from the Earliest Periods to the Present Day." Everts, Philadelphia, 1883. 2 vols.

Floyd C. Shoemaker, "Missouri and Missourians: Land of Contrasts and People of Achievements," Lewis Pub. Co. 5 vols. 1943.

Floyd C. Shoemaker, Editor, "Missouri Day by Day," State Historical Society, 1942-43. 2 vols.

Floyd C. Shoemaker, "Missouri's Struggle for Statehood, 1804-1821," Hugh Stephens, Jefferson City, 1916.

Walter Barlow Stevens, "Centennial History of Missouri," Clarke, St. Louis, 1921. 6 vols.

Writers' Program. "Missouri, A Guide to the 'Show Me' State." Duell, Sloan & Pearce, 1941.

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